

PRESS RELEASE EMBARGOED 16:30 THURSDAY 30 MARCH

Cryptic announce major new co-production *Shorelines*

World Premiere will take place at the renowned Operadagen Rotterdam 19 & 20 May

Inspired by the devastating North Sea Flood of 1953, this new music theatre work is composed by Oliver Coates, performed by the Ragazze Quartet, directed by Josh Armstrong, with costume and set design by Christophe Coppens and lighting by Nich Smith

Cryptic have announced the World Premiere of their major new co-production *Shorelines*, which will take place at Rotterdam's renowned Operadagen festival on the 19 and 20 May.

Inspired by the North Sea Flood of 1953—which left the Netherlands devastated and also took many lives in the UK and Belgium— *Shorelines* explores the beauty and catastrophic power of the sea at a time of increased risk from climate change. Developed in partnership with deSingel, Antwerp and The Grand Theatre, Groningen *Shorelines* is a music-theatre work created by an impressive line-up of talent from across the globe. With music from composer and cellist **Oliver Coates** (whose collaborative album with Mica Levi, *Remain Calm*, was named as one of the New York Times' *25 Songs That Tell Us Where Music Is Going*) and performed by the much-lauded all-female **Ragazze Quartet** from the Netherlands, *Shorelines* is directed by Glasgow-based Cryptic Associate artist **Josh Armstrong** (whose previous work for Cryptic includes *The Little Match Girl Passion*), with costume and set design by the legendary, LA-based fashion designer and artist **Christophe Coppens**, who has created pieces for everyone from Rihanna to Grace Jones and is fresh from directing his first ever opera, *FOXIE! The Cunning Little Vixen* at La Monnaie / De Munt in Brussels.

Acting as both a memorial to those who lost their lives and a meditation on water, *Shorelines* centres on a rare eyewitness testimony of a survivor from Canvey Island, Essex (UK) who lost everything to the sea. Following the moments after the flood, the performers drift through a dramatic musical landscape of flowing and shifting textures; as the members of the quartet perform against haunting recordings of themselves and collages of slowed strings and choral voices, the audience hear the sounds that were never heard, the calls that were unanswered and see shadows floating through the darkness.

Shorelines is a poignant reflection on the increasingly delicate relationship humanity has with the natural world.

Following its World Premiere at Operadagen Rotterdam, the piece will be performed at Cryptic's Sonica Festival in Glasgow on 1 and 2 November. The full Sonica programme will be announced in May.

***Shorelines* is a Cryptic / Ragazze Quartet Co-Production. In partnership with deSingel (Belgium) and Grand Theatre Groningen (Netherlands). Commissioned and produced by Cryptic.**

Supported by:

FONDS
PODIUM
KUNSTEN
PERFORMING
ARTS FUND NL

CREATIVE
LAND
SCOT
ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL

PRS
FOR MUSIC
Foundation

The Hinrichsen
Foundation

deSingel

GRAND THEATRE
GRONINGEN

Cryptic is a PRS for Music Foundation Talent Development Partner

Quotes

Cryptic's Artistic Director Cathie Boyd said: "We are thrilled to be premiering Cryptic's latest work at the prestigious Operadagen Rotterdam. We've assembled a dazzling creative team for *Shorelines*, with longstanding collaborator Oliver Coates and current Cryptic Associate artist Josh Armstrong working alongside the energetic, boundary-pushing Ragazze Quartet and fashion icon Christophe Coppens. We're also delighted to announce that we will be bringing *Shorelines* home to Glasgow later in the year as what is sure to be one of the highlights of Sonica 2017."

Composer Oliver Coates said: "With *Shorelines*, I am attempting to recreate, in sound, a fantasy of multiple lighthouses along the shore - an imagined time-lapse video. The beam of a lighthouse has an exponential curve as it swings round and each player uses consonant harmonics to replicate this dynamic with their bowing. I composed *Shorelines* over the course of a year while I got to know the members of the Ragazze Quartet. The act of writing became therapeutic, like a meditation on the rhythm of water. The work is also a memorial to the dark night in 1953 when an individual slowly loses everything to water as the flood climbs through each hour of the night."

The Ragazze Quartet said: "We are delighted to join forces with Cryptic for *Shorelines*. It is an interesting challenge to make something that does justice to the disaster that historical and contemporary floods cause. Oliver Coates' innovative and wonderful music has been an inspiration and a great help in the process. It has been an adventure and we are looking forward to presenting the result."

Director Josh Armstrong said: "After over two years of gestation, I am excited to be able to present this new work at Operadagen. The process of making *Shorelines* has been fuelled by collaboration from artists around the globe, each weaving their own unique interpretation of this tragic event into a multi-disciplinary theatrical landscape. This collaboration has been so tightly woven that the staging, music and design elements are inextricably linked into a live musical performance. It will be a thrill to share this work with an audience, in an experience that I hope will garner both remembrance of the past and conversation about our future."

Costume and set designer Christophe Coppens said: "It's so bloody exciting to be part of a new creation, to help build something from the ground. It was a real joy to be part of this creative team. The music is gorgeous and so are the performers."

Anna Krzystek, Interdisciplinary Performance Officer at Creative Scotland said: "This new work boasts an incredibly talented international cast and we are pleased that *Shorelines* will receive its premiere on such a prestigious stage at Operadagen, Rotterdam. We wish the company well for the world premiere and we can't wait for Scottish audiences to see this production when it comes to Glasgow as part of Cryptic's Sonica Festival in November as we're sure they will be enthralled and inspired by this poignant piece."

Media Info

For interviews, images etc. please contact Ruth Marsh on 07824 468396 / ruth.marshpr@gmail.com

Notes to Editors

About Oliver Coates

Oliver Coates is a cellist, composer and producer based in London. He has performed solo shows in China, Russia, Brazil, Egypt and Australia, and made his New York debut at Le Poisson Rouge. He was the winner of the Royal Philharmonic Society Young Artist Award 2011 and is an Artist in Residence at the Southbank Centre.

In 2016 the Barbican, Southbank Centre, Royal Court Theatre and Glasgow International biennale staged major new compositions by Coates, and he programmed the Southbank's DEEP∞MINIMALISM festival. In 2017 new commissions will premiere at Borealis Festival, Bergen and Operadagen, Rotterdam.

Coates is a frequent collaborator with Mica Levi, Jonny Greenwood, the visual artist Lawrence Lek and London Contemporary Orchestra. www.olivercoates.com

About Ragazze Quartet

The Ragazze Quartet is a young Dutch string quartet, acclaimed for its musical enthusiasm, talent, exceptional versatility and dynamic presentation. The quartet collaborates with and performs alongside composers, musicians and artists working in a variety of disciplines and genres, where the different disciplines are approached as equals, complementing and elevating one another.

The Ragazze have established an international reputation, having performed at events and festivals across the world including: China, the Czech Republic, Indonesia, Italy, Switzerland, the USA and U.K. In 2012 they signed a recording contract with the renowned Channel Classics Label, winners of Gramophone Label of the Year 2015, and in 2013 were awarded the prestigious 'Kersjes Prize.' www.ragazzequartet.nl

About Josh Armstrong

Armstrong is an interdisciplinary artist and his work is characterised by bold design, visual composition and artistic collaboration.

Armstrong has worked with Cryptic since 2009, becoming the first Cryptic Associate Director in 2011. Cryptic Commissions include: *The Little Match Girl Passion (2011)*, *World to Come (2011)*, *The Embassy (2012)*, *Lunchbox (2013)* and *these delicate things (2014)*.

In 2015, Armstrong directed and designed *HUI*, a dance-theatre performance, visualising Tan Dun's piano repertoire for the National Theater and Concert Hall in Taipei, Taiwan.

Armstrong is currently undertaking a Jerwood Opera Writing Fellowship at Aldeburgh Music and lectures at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. www.cryptic.org.uk/josh-armstrong

About Christophe Coppens

Coppens is a Belgian artist, living and working in Los Angeles. Trained initially as a theatre director, he started his own label as an accessories designer at the age of 21, a career that would span over 20 years with several outlets, international press following and buyers the world over, and that he would combine and nurture with his work and solo shows as an artist. In 2017 Coppens returned to the theatre, directing his first opera at La Monnaie De Munt, Brussels. www.christophecoppens.com

About Nich Smith

Smith is an independent lighting designer based in Glasgow, Scotland. He works with a variety of clients on a range of projects over many disciplines from theatre, opera, and visual arts to architecture and exhibition lighting design. Smith was awarded the UK Lighting Design Awards 2008 Best Public Building prize for his interactive lighting design for the John Murray Archive at the National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh.

Current projects include new decorative exterior lighting for the University of Edinburgh's Old College and interpretative lighting for the house and historic collections at Mount Stuart, Isle of Bute, including first edition Shakespeare folios recently re-discovered within the family library.

Projects with Cryptic include: *HUI* (2015), *these delicate things* (2014), *Orlando* (2010), *Confined Human Condition* (2009), *Optical Identity* (2007), *Paper Nautilus* (2006), *Tunnel Visions* (2004) and *Apocalypse* (2003). www.nichsmith.co.uk

About Cryptic

Cryptic is a Glasgow based internationally-renowned producing art house, presenting today's most imaginative, innovative artists whilst also nurturing the creative talent of tomorrow. We create memorable experiences that engage and inspire our audiences. Cryptic 'ravishes the senses' with multi-media performances that fuse music, sonic and visual art.

Founded by Cathie Boyd in 1994, the company thrives on artistic innovation and creative risk-taking, which has subsequently created an environment where artists have been encouraged to push artistic boundaries.

To date, Cryptic has presented 162 productions (including 37 world premieres), which have been seen in 27 countries. www.cryptic.org.uk

About Operadagen

Operadagen (Opera Days) Rotterdam is an international ten-day opera and music theatre festival in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, which attracted over 23,000 visitors in 2016. The twelfth edition takes place from 12 - 21 May 2017. The festival presents contemporary, innovative and groundbreaking productions by leading international makers as well as young adventurous talent. Over the next four years, Operadagen Rotterdam is developing a new theme *Lost & Found*, beginning with the sub-theme of *Departures* in 2017. www.operadagenrotterdam.nl

About deSingel

deSingel combines grandeur and adventure in a programme of international theatre, dance, music and architecture. Our aim is to present this programme to as broad a public as possible. The co-habitation of four artistic disciplines, of artists in residence, a conservatory and an architecture institute on the same site is unique in Flanders and the world. www.desingel.be

About The Grand Theatre

The Grand Theatre is an iconic theatre for independent performing arts, situated on the central 'Grote Markt' in Groningen, in the North of The Netherlands. It is a venue which hosts existing and presents new work in a curated and supportive environment for artists, resulting in exciting, inspiring and provocative shows and concerts. www.grandtheatregroningen.nl

About Creative Scotland

Creative Scotland is the public body that supports the arts, screen and creative industries across all parts of Scotland on behalf of everyone who lives, works or visits here. We enable people and organisations to work in and experience the arts, screen and creative industries in Scotland by helping others to develop great ideas and bring them to life. We distribute funding provided by the Scottish Government and the National Lottery. www.creativescotland.com