



****PRESS RELEASE****

An Indoor Forest with real-life Barn Owl joins hundreds of Young People to transform the Royal Festival Hall for Shine Week 2009

A real-life Barn Owl, a woodland forest from North Somerset, TV presenter Peter Duncan and over 300 young people from across the country will come together at London's Southbank Centre on Friday, 10 July to celebrate Shine Week 2009 – the national festival celebrating all the talents in all young people.

The *Share Your Talent* event brings together young people from around the country in workshops and performances that transform The Clore Ballroom in the Royal Festival Hall with visual installations representing their local areas. In addition to the forest, with its resident Barn Owl Beau, a piece of public art created for the hoardings of the new Tyne Tunnel and a 2D map of cultural activities in Leeds will be amongst the offerings from the 10 areas piloting Find Your Talent (www.findyourtalent.org) – the Government's cultural offer for children and young people.

Share Your Talent will be hosted by SE1 United (a youth organisation based at Southbank Centre) who formed a Youth Management Group to help plan the occasion. Artists and celebrities supporting the Find Your Talent initiative are also involved this Friday's event with presenter and former Chief Scout, **Peter Duncan** taking part in a dynamic debate about why it is important to integrate art and culture into young people's lives.

Amanda Holden, Britain's Got Talent judge, adds her support, commenting: "With so much negative publicity about young people, it is brilliant to see this great event celebrating young people's talent! Getting involved in the arts and performance can be an opportunity to find a life changing talent for some but is actually an opportunity for

meeting people, making friends and having fun for many many more. Good luck to everyone involved on the 10th July - I hope you enjoy your day!"

Professional artists will host a series of workshops ranging from Hip Hop dance and Indian music through to DJ skills and Bhangra Drumming. The day will culminate in spectacular performances from each of the 10 pathfinder areas with highlights including a dance piece from the Tower Hamlets pathfinder group with the London-based contemporary dance company, Laban. The new iiSan Maayaas contemporary dance group formed by five Kent schools for the Shepway Find Your Talent pathfinder will be performing their collaboratively choreographed piece entitled "Handle with Care".

Paul Collard, Chief Executive of Creativity, Culture and Education (CCE), the new national organisation that manages Find Your Talent and Shine 09, commented: "There is a wealth of cultural opportunities nationwide for young people to explore helping them to discover their own individual interests and talents. This event highlights the range of opportunity that exists from Indian dance, through to folk music and poetry. It is inspiring to see what has already been achieved through Find Your Talent and shows why all young people must have access to culture."

Jude Kelly, Artistic Director of Southbank Centre said: "We continue our commitment to bringing young artists and audiences into the heart of the organisation through this partnership with Find Your Talent. Southbank Centre is delighted to host this exciting event with SE1 United, our Youth Organisation in Residence, which is the first opportunity for everyone from the 10 Find Your Talent pathfinder areas to meet and celebrate the range of work being produced."

Date: End

For more information please contact:

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Notes to Editors:

Find Your Talent - www.findyourtalent.org

Find Your Talent is the Government's pilot cultural offer for all children and young people which aims to ensure they have access to the wide range of quality cultural experiences essential to unlocking their talent and realising their potential.

Creativity, Culture and Education (CCE) – www.creativitycultureeducation.org

Creativity, Culture and Education (CCE) is a new national organisation which aims to transform the lives of children and families by harnessing the potential of creative learning and cultural opportunity to enhance their aspirations, achievements and skills.

Our vision is for children's creativity to be encouraged and nurtured in and out of school and for all children to experience and access the diverse range of cultural activity in England because these opportunities can dramatically improve their life chances.

Southbank Centre

Southbank Centre is the UK's largest arts centre, occupying a 21-acre site that sits in the midst of London's most vibrant cultural quarter on the South Bank of the Thames. The site has an extraordinary creative and architectural history stretching back to the 1951 *Festival of Britain*. Southbank Centre is home to the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and The Hayward as well as The Saison Poetry Library and the Arts Council Collection. The Royal Festival Hall reopened in June 2007 following the major refurbishment of the Hall and redevelopment of the surrounding area and facilities.

SE1 United

SE1 United is a youth organisation, which was set up in 2003 for young people aged between 10 and 21 years old. Having recently moved into Spirit Level in the Royal Festival Hall, SE1 United organises and funds youth-led activities and trips for young people in South London.