

***Without Walls Announces Seven New Outdoor Commissions  
and  
Welcomes Freedom Festival Hull to the Associate Touring Network***

Festival audiences in their thousands are set to be thrilled, amazed and entertained by seven new commissions from Without Walls – and all for free. The shows - ranging from the intimate to the epic, and spanning circus, theatre, music and dance - will be performed at festivals around the country over the summer.

Programme highlights include a multi-media aerial performance on a life-sized house, and an ambitious exploration of the ancient Portuguese song, *fado* using dance and fire. Audiences will also be able to catch previous Without Walls commissions from the back catalogue, programmed as part of the Associate Touring Network of festivals, which will give even more people a chance to see the best in UK outdoor performance. Without Walls is delighted to welcome Freedom Festival Hull, the newest member of the Associate Touring Network.

Without Walls - a consortium of seven leading festivals across England – is committed to taking great art directly to audiences in the streets, squares and parks of our towns and cities to create extraordinary experiences. Outdoor arts remains one of the most accessible of art forms and continues to attract huge audiences, making it an increasingly important part of cultural life in the UK. Since its launch in 2007, Without Walls has gone from strength to strength, producing or commissioning 61 new outdoor works and supporting shows that have toured in 22 countries, reaching audiences of over 2 million people.

**The Without Walls commissions for 2014 are:**

**Acrojou - *Frantic* (Circus/German Wheel)**

The directorial debut of company co-founder, Jeni Barnard, *Frantic* utilises Acrojou's trademark acrobatics, dance-theatre and rich visual design, and choreographs it around a German Wheel.

**Marc Brew Company – *(i)land* (Dance)**

A new outdoor work, grounded in contemporary technique and classical ballet, from Marc Brew (*Nocturne*). *Part of Glasgow 2014 Cultural Programme.*

**Metro-Boulot-Dodo – *Safe House* (Aerial dance/Projection/Installation)**

Aerialists scale the walls and pound the streets against stunning visual backdrops, with a breathtaking finale combining aerial performance with exhilarating quick frame animation. An artistic collaboration with Wired Aerial Theatre and Draw and Code (part of the team responsible for the internationally successful *As The World Tipped*)

**Nuno Silva – *Soul of Fado* (Dance/Pyro)**

Infused with the steamy atmosphere of Lisbon Old Quarter, sensual contemporary dance, soul bearing Portuguese fado and a flaming gondola feature in this fire and dance spectacular. Nuno Silva's career spans contemporary dance (Henri Oguike, Luca Silvestrini, Javier de Frutos), classical opera (Cork Opera) and West End musicals (*Cabaret*, *The Light Princess*).

**Ramshacklicious – *Grime* (Theatre/Music)**

Part-absurd, part-constructed reality, *Grime* is a modern-day soap opera that aims to push the boundaries of possibility, taking the grotesque of Punch and Judy and giving it a contemporary, anarchic twist.

**Tiata Fahodzi – *The Legend of Hamba* (Theatre)**

A contemporary African mystery play created by Tiata Fahodzi, Britain's African Theatre Company.

**Wet Picnic – *The Lift* (Walkabout)**

Playing with the notion of British eccentricity and mix bouffon, clown, slapstick and physicality.

**Shows selected from the 2014 programme will be performed at Without Walls Festivals:**

Brighton Festival (3 - 25 May)

Norfolk & Norwich Festival (3 - 24 May)

*Ageas Salisbury International Arts Festival* (23 May - 7 June)

Greenwich+Docklands International Festival (20 June - 28 June)

Hat Fair, Winchester (4 - 6 July)

Stockton International Riverside Festival (31 July - 3 August)

Mintfest (29 - 31 August)

**Ends**

## Notes for Editors

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**Full listings information:** Available April 2014

**Images and film:** Artists/company info, images and links to film footage, available on request.

### Without Walls

Without Walls, a consortium of seven of the UK's leading arts festivals, brings the best in new outdoor performance to diverse audiences all over the UK, providing opportunities for UK artists to develop bold new ideas - from large-scale spectacles to more intimate pieces. **For more information** on Without Walls, the Without Walls 2014 programme and the Associate Touring Network please visit [www.withoutwalls.uk.com](http://www.withoutwalls.uk.com)

### Consortium Members:

Brighton Festival  
Greenwich+Docklands International Festival (GDIF)  
Mintfest  
Ageas Salisbury International Arts Festival  
Norfolk & Norwich Festival Norwich  
Stockton International Arts Festival  
Winchester Hat Fair

**Associate Touring Network (ATN) Without Walls** is working with a network of nine festivals to extend the reach and benefits of our programme in areas where there is low engagement with the arts, giving diverse audiences across England access to the highest quality new work and further strengthening the outdoor touring sector. **Supported by Arts Council England's Strategic Touring Fund**

### ATN Members:

Appetite, Stoke on Trent  
Blackpool Council  
Bradford Festival  
Derby Festé  
Freedom Festival Hull  
Fuse Medway Festival  
Out There Festival, Great Yarmouth  
SO Festival, Skegness  
Summer in Southside, Birmingham Hippodrome

**Without Walls is supported by Arts Council England via a two-year Grants for the Arts programme.** Arts Council England champions, develops and invests in artistic and cultural experiences that enrich people's lives. We support a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries – from theatre to digital art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections. Great art and culture inspires us, brings us together and teaches us about ourselves and the world around us. In short, it makes life better. Between 2011 and 2015, we will invest £1.4 billion of public money from government and an estimated £1 billion from the National Lottery to help create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country. [www.artscouncil.org.uk](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk)

**14 February 2014**