



Press Release

Cape Farewell launches first climate change youth expedition to the High Arctic

Launch: From 4pm, Sunday 9 September 2007, Southbank Centre, London

Expedition: 14-23 September 2007

In September, Cape Farewell launches its first international youth expedition, voyaging north of the 79th parallel to the fragile extremes of Svalbard in the High Arctic with twelve students from Germany, Canada and the UK to investigate and raise awareness of the impacts of climate change. In a landmark arts, science and media project the young people will work alongside artist Dan Harvey, Professor Mark Maslin of University College London's Environment Institute and others to develop scientific and creative projects.

The students will live, work and help sail the 100-year old sailing schooner *The Noorderlicht*, working on subjects such as changing weather patterns and retreating glaciers. Youth expedition leaders, teacher and filmmaker Colin Izod and science teacher and choreographer Suba Subramanian, together with onboard artists, scientists and educators will mentor and support the development of the projects. Daily video reports, blogs, webcams and message boards will be sent live from the boat to voyage.capefarewell.com and screens at Southbank Centre in London. The projects that the young people develop, both at sea and with their schools, will become an international educational resource.

The expedition launch - at Southbank Centre on Sunday 9 September - is a festive event hosted by comedian Marcus Brigstocke in the Royal Festival Hall with a special maritime send off for the students down the Thames. It also marks the departure in October of Cape Farewell's fourth art and science expedition. Musicians, singers, the Cape Farewell youth team and artists past and present, including Vikram Seth, Marcus Brigstocke, Beth Derbyshire, William Hunt, Dan Harvey & Heather Ackroyd and Max Eastley join with David Buckland, founder and director of Cape Farewell, Jude Kelly, Artistic Director of Southbank Centre and Professor Mark Maslin to celebrate the imminent voyages. The day is part of Southbank Centre's environment weekend *Saving Paradise*, beginning on Saturday 8 September with Paco Pena's *Requiem For the Earth* and Gamelan Wayang, an all-night session of traditional Javanese storytelling, shadow puppetry and music.

When the youth expedition returns, Cape Farewell's art and science voyage – its most ambitious expedition to date - attempts to sail the 78th parallel to eastern Greenland, a passage only made possible due to the melting sea ice. Taking over two weeks (23 September – 10 October), the expedition will cross the north Atlantic to the extreme frontline of climate change before sailing south to Scoresby Sund in Greenland. This expedition brings together writer Vikram Seth, comedian Marcus Brigstocke, artists Amy Balkin, Kathy Barber, David Buckland, Beth Derbyshire, Dan Harvey, William Hunt and Brian Jungen and journalist Benjamin Jervey. Dr Simon Boxall of the National Oceanography Centre and his team will continue monitoring the robustness of the Gulf Stream and a media team lead by acclaimed environmental photographer and filmmaker, Nick Cobbing, will document the expedition and the most recent impacts of climate change.

Cape Farewell brings artists, scientists and educators together to bring about long-term changes in cultural attitudes towards climate change. Created by artist David Buckland, Cape Farewell has led a series of expeditions into the Arctic exploring the seas that hold the key to understanding the changes in our weather patterns and climate. Cape Farewell begins an ambitious three-year collaboration with Southbank Centre and the Eden Project in 2007 and in August began operating as a cultural eco-hub at Southbank Centre as part of

their creative climate change initiatives. Work from the Cape Farewell artists will be presented at Southbank Centre and the Eden Project and new and existing work will be shown internationally. Cape Farewell is working with an expanding group of partners, including Creative Partnerships, the British Council (who have developed the international element of the youth expedition) and the Barbican to bring its cultural work to a national and international audience at this critical time for the planet. Cape Farewell is grateful for the support of Arts Council England.

To download images please see www.press.capefarewell.com (Username: press and Password: expedition2007). For further information contact **Gill Roth** (Cape Farewell) on mail@gillrothcommunications.com or 020 7635 0520 or **Janette Scott** (Cape Farewell) on janette@capefarewell.com or 020 7620 6235.

Notes to Editors

Cape Farewell's programme includes three separate journeys on the *Noorderlicht* schooner 79 ° North to the Svalbard archipelago with artists Heather Ackroyd & Dan Harvey, Kathy Barber, David Buckland, Peter Clegg, Gautier Deblonde, Max Eastley, Nick Edwards, Antony Gormley, Alex Hartley, Gary Hume, Ian McEwan, Michèle Noach, Suba Subramaniam and Rachel Whiteread. Exhibitions include *The Ice Garden*, 2005 (Bodleian Library, Oxford), *The Ship*, 2006 (Natural History Museum, London) and *Cape Farewell – Art and Climate Change*, 2006 (Liverpool Biennial). Cape Farewell has also produced a publication, *Burning Ice – Art and Climate Change*, a BBC film and DVD, *Art from the Arctic* and Max Eastley's *Arctic* CD. Cape Farewell's programme is made possible through the support of the Arts Council England, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Bromley Trust, Ashden Trust, Compton Trust and Tate Britain (AHRC). www.capefarewell.com

Southbank Centre Relunched in June 2007, following the refurbishment of the Royal Festival Hall and the surrounding area, Southbank Centre each year presents nearly 1000 paid performances of music, dance and literature; a dynamic learning and participation programme, more than 300 free foyer events and major art exhibitions at The Hayward as well as Hayward Touring in more than 100 venues around the country. It attracts more than 3 million visits annually. **Press: Gilly Fox** gilly.fox@southbankcentre.co.uk 020 7921 0631. www.southbankcentre.co.uk

Arts Council England works to get more art to more people in more places. They develop and promote the arts across England, acting as an independent body at arm's length from government. Between 2006 and 2008, they will invest £1.1 billion of public money from government and the National Lottery in supporting the arts. This is the bedrock of support for the arts in England. The Arts Council believe that the arts have the power to change lives and communities, and to create opportunities for people throughout the country. For 2006 to 2008, they have six priorities: taking part in the arts, children and young people, the creative economy, vibrant communities, internationalism and celebrating diversity. **Press: Sophie Martin** sophie.martin@artscouncil.org.uk 020 7608 4149 www.artscouncil.org.uk

The British Council is the UK's international organization for educational opportunities and cultural relations operating in 233 towns and cities in 109 countries and territories worldwide. They build relationships and understanding between people in the UK and other countries and increase appreciation of the UK's ideas and achievements overseas. The areas of focus are creativity, education and civil society. They are a non-political organization which operates at arm's length from government. **Press: Ellen Miller** Ellen.Miller@britishcouncil.org 020 7389 4939 www.britishcouncil.org

Creative Partnerships is the government's flagship creative learning programme, designed to develop the skills of young people across England, raising their aspirations and achievements, and equipping them for their futures. Creative Partnerships is managed by Arts Council England and funded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). **Press: Joanna Hyde** Joanna.hyde@creative-partnerships.com 020 7973 5194 www.creative-partnerships.com

Professor Mark Maslin, Director of the UCL Environment Institute, **University College London**: "The synergy between science, social science, engineering, the arts and humanities at UCL means we are well placed to tackle the issues raised by climate change. This project gives us the opportunity to work with children across Europe and help them to look at the issue for themselves. Not only will the expedition turn the twelve participants into 'climate change champions', capable of sharing their knowledge with their peers, but we'll also be using the trip as a way to develop materials and learning strategies which can be used much more widely." **Press: Dominique Fourniol** d.fourniol@ucl.ac.uk 020 7679 9728 www.ucl.ac.uk

The **Eden Project** is home to the two biggest greenhouses in the world - the Rainforest Biome and Mediterranean Biome. Eden is about connecting plants, people and places. It is a living demonstration of regeneration and aims to reconnect people with their environments locally and globally. They don't claim to have all the answers, they don't want to tell others what to think; what they do is invite people to explore their world afresh. **Press: Ben Foster** bfoster@edenproject.com 01726 818766 www.edenproject.com