



Press Release

Marcus Brigstocke launches Cape Farewell's first youth climate change expedition to the High Arctic on the river Thames

Sunday 9 September 2007, Southbank Centre, London

To the sound of sea shanties sung by Southbank Centre's Voicelab and trumpet fanfare performed by Southbank Centre Resident Orchestra, the London Philharmonic Orchestra, 12 youngsters voyage down the Thames from Southbank Centre at the start of their epic adventure to the High Arctic.

Marcus Brigstocke, accompanied by Jude Kelly, Artistic Director of Southbank Centre, David Buckland, director of Cape Farewell, and professor Diana Liverman, director of ECI (Environmental Change Institute, Oxford University) celebrate the endeavor and ambition of these young people tackling the realities of climate change.

Voyaging north to the 79th parallel, the students will arrive at the science station in NyAlesund on Svalbard in an old sailing schooner *The Noorderlicht*. The 12 students from Germany, Canada and the UK will assist in sailing the schooner and investigate the impacts of climate change during this Arctic voyage. Mentored by **Professor Mark Maslin** of University College London's Environment Institute and artist **Dan Harvey** the students will develop scientific and creative projects learning how to understand and communicate to others the realities of climate change and how it is affecting the Arctic wilderness. During the voyage, each team member will send weblogs, video clips, photos, etc. to the Cape Farewell website, voyage.capefarewell.com and these will also be uploaded to a video portal within Cape Farewell's voyages exhibition in the Royal Festival Hall. The Youth Team's work will contribute to Cape Farewell's international education resources on climate change and on their return to their schools the students will become both narrators and climate ambassadors for change.

Amid festive musical celebrations led by Southbank Centre's **VoiceLab choir** – Cape Farewell artists and supporters will join to give the young people an unforgettable send-off. They include the writer **Vikram Seth**, broadcaster **Quentin Cooper**, scientist **Dr. Simon Boxall** and artists **David Buckland**, **Siobhan Davies**, **Dan Harvey & Heather Ackroyd**, **Beth Derbyshire**, **William Hunt**, and **Max Eastley**. The launch on Sunday 9 September is part of Southbank Centre's *Saving Paradise* weekend, which also includes Paco Pena's *Requiem For the Earth* and the Gamelan Wayang, an all-night performance of traditional Javanese storytelling, shadow puppetry and music, performed the previous evening.

LAUNCH FESTIVITIES from 3pm in the Ballroom of The Royal Festival Hall

3.15pm: A Cape Farewell Arctic film w sequence will be shown, accompanied by a live performance

with Southbank Centre's Wayang Gamelan

4pm: Marcus Brigstocke introduces Jude Kelly, David Buckland, Diana Liverman as they relate the importance and ambition of this expedition. Quentin Cooper introduces the international students as they present their personal hopes and involvement in this extraordinary adventure

4.45pm: Southbank Centre's Voicelab, sing specially commissioned sea shanties accompanied by an accordion ensemble led by Martina Schwarz

LAUNCH ON THE THAMES, Festival Pier in front of the Royal Festival Hall

5.15pm: Trumpet trio with members of the London Philharmonic Orchestra's Foyle Future First Players Scheme, play a fanfare to send off the students in two inflatable boats as they begin their symbolic voyage down the Thames

PHOTO-CALL OPPORTUNITIES

4.45pm: the students, Marcus Brigstocke and others will be available for photographs and interviews in The Ballroom of the Royal Festival Hall

5.15pm: Waving flags, the youth team will be launched on two inflatable boats on the Thames, passing the Houses of Parliament and circling in front of Southbank Centre. There will be the opportunity to take photographs and film from one of the boats and from the Riverside in front of The Royal Festival Hall.

To arrange interviews or for further information about Cape Farewell, please 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. For further information about Southbank Centre, please contact **Gilly Fox** (Southbank Centre) on gilly.fox@southbankcentre.co.uk or 020 7921 0631.

To download images please see www.press.capefarewell.com (Username: press and Password: expedition2007).

Notes to Editors

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 is working with an expanding group of partners, including the **Eden Project**, **Southbank Centre**, **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**.

Cape Farewell's artists and scientists expedition sails 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 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 led by acclaimed environmental photographer and filmmaker, Nick Cobbing, will document the expedition and the most recent impacts of climate change.

Cape Farewell's 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).

Cape Farewell has just begun a three-year term as Artist's in Residence at Southbank Centre.

For further information see www.capefarewell.com