



AN
ARTICHOKE
PROJECT



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ENGLAND**



 **the space**

Press Release

Artichoke to live stream spectacular finale event marking 350th anniversary of the Great Fire of London in partnership with The Space

Lauren Laverne to present the online broadcast from the banks of the River Thames and streamed to VisitLondon.com/GreatFire350.

Millions will be able to watch online the spectacular finale event of LONDON'S BURNING, Artichoke's festival to mark the 350th anniversary of the Great Fire of London that runs from 30th of August to the 4th of September.

LONDON 1666 is a collaboration between American artist David Best and Artichoke, and a major learning and participation project with hundreds of young Londoners that has spanned several months. An extraordinary 120-metre long sculpture of a 17th-century London skyline will appear on the River Thames and burn, in a dramatic retelling of the story of the Great Fire of London of September 1666.

The Space, who help artists and organisations to make great art and reach new audiences digitally, has commissioned Artichoke to produce a live stream of this landmark event, to be broadcast online on Sunday 4th September. Hosted by Lauren Laverne as the event unfolds on the River Thames, the programme will include key guests and a series of short films revealing the stories behind the project.

The event will be filmed using state-of-the-art equipment and techniques to capture a fantastic multi-camera live experience, directed by Tim van Someren (London 2012 Olympic Opening Ceremony). The programme will give online audiences front row access, and a memory that will burn bright long after the fire has died.

Over the next two weeks, audiences will be able to follow the story of this remarkable project online in a series of behind-the-scenes previews.

The project has involved months of learning and participation work with young people across several Inner London boroughs: Camden, Hackney, Islington, Newham, Southwark and Tower Hamlets.

Young Londoners not in education, employment or training, have taken part in the construction of the piece and experienced a unique and collaborative working environment. Through workshops, placements and volunteering, young people aged between 16-24 years old have received an introduction to the construction and creative industries, and the opportunity to gain a CSCS certificate and further employment qualifications, leaving a legacy of skills and partnerships and providing inspiration to help transform their lives.

Hundreds of schoolchildren have taken part in integrated drawing and history workshops in schools across these boroughs, and designed decorative panels describing their hopes for London's future, which will be included in the final piece.

LONDON 1666 is part of LONDON'S BURNING, a festival of art and ideas to commemorate the Great Fire of London that will give a unique Artichoke perspective on a significant moment in the country's history.

The programme takes place in landmark locations across the city and includes; an underwater performance-artwork at Broadgate; a domino-like sculpture that snakes through the city's streets tracing the multiple paths of the fire; and the spectacular finale on the river.

Audiences are invited to rediscover the City of London and beyond, its past and its future. LONDON'S BURNING offers an opportunity to contemplate the lasting impact the Fire had on the architecture, outlook and infrastructure of the City including some of its most iconic buildings and landmarks.

For the last ten years, Artichoke has made work in the public realm that seeks to transform people's lives and change the world through the creation of extraordinary moments. In 2009, in partnership with Sky Arts, the company broke records for the longest ever live broadcast. Antony Gormley's *One & Other* was broadcast live from the Fourth Plinth in Trafalgar Square, 24 hours a day for 100 days.

Helen Marriage, Director of Artichoke said:

"This is a special moment for Artichoke as we celebrate our tenth anniversary. Audiences will have the opportunity to experience an Artichoke project live from wherever they happen to be. This commission from The Space will enable millions to experience this extraordinary project as it happens, in a very rich and immersive way, and discover the remarkable stories of the young people who have been at the heart of this national commemoration of a major moment in our history".

Fiona Morris, Chief Executive and Creative Director of The Space said:

“I’m delighted that The Space is collaborating with Artichoke for this – quite literally – landmark event to mark the 350th anniversary of The Great Fire of London. Artichoke’s unparalleled work has wowed millions of people in the live space for years and I couldn’t be happier that we’ll be working with their phenomenal team to broaden the reach of London 1666 to millions more online”.

LONDON’S BURNING has received founding sponsorship from the City of London Corporation, an award from Arts Council England’s Ambition for Excellence programme and further support from the Department of Culture Media and Sport, and a raft of sponsors and funders, LONDON’S BURNING is part of *Great Fire 350*, a City-wide season of cultural events marking this anniversary.

LONDON’S BURNING, produced by Artichoke, 30th August-4th September 2016 www.visitlondon.com/greatfire350 #greatfire350 #LondonsBurning

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Editors’ Notes

London’s Burning

London’s Burning, 30th August-4th September, is a festival of arts and ideas, produced by Artichoke, with founding sponsorship from the City of London Corporation and major support from Arts Council England and further support from a raft of funders and sponsors.

Great Fire 350

Great Fire 350 marks the 350th anniversary of the 1666 Great Fire of London. Throughout 2016, City cultural institutions will mark the commemoration with a variety season of events including exhibitions, concerts, lectures and tours. Events include the exhibition *Fire! Fire!* at the Museum of London from 23rd July. Full details at www.visitlondon.com/greatfire350.

About Artichoke

Producers of extraordinary live events, Artichoke is one of the country’s leading creative companies and is a registered charity, funded by Arts Council England.

At Artichoke we use art to undermine the mundane and disrupt the everyday, and create a new kind of world that we’d all like to live in.

Our previous projects include Royal de Luxe’s *The Sultan’s Elephant*, which brought an estimated one million people onto the streets of London in 2006; *La Machine*’s 50- foot high mechanical spider for Liverpool’s Capital of Culture celebrations in 2008; Antony Gormley’s *One & Other* 100-day long invasion of the Fourth Plinth in Trafalgar Square in London in 2009; and Deborah Warner’s commission for the London 2012 Festival, *Peace Camp*, a nationwide celebration of landscape and poetry, which took place across eight separate sites around the UK; and *Temple* by David Best in Derry~Londonderry, attended by more than 60,000 people. Artichoke creates and produces *Lumiere*, the UK’s largest light festival, which has been staged in the medieval English city of Durham every two years since 2009; and in Derry~Londonderry in Northern Ireland as part of the celebrations for City of Culture 2013. In January 2016, the company staged the first *Lumiere London*, supported by the Mayor of London, attracting estimated audiences of over 1 million over four nights. www.artichoke.uk.com

The Space

The Space works with artists and arts organisations to create great art and reach new audiences through digital technologies. From learning and skills through to funding and commissioning, the organisation supports the best new and original talent. The Space was founded by the BBC and Arts Council England.

Arts Council England

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 2015 and 2018, we plan to invest £1.1 billion of public money from government and an estimated £700 million from the National Lottery to help create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country. www.artscouncil.org.uk

The City of London Corporation

The City of London Corporation is a uniquely diverse organisation. It supports and promotes the City as a world leader in international finance and business services and provides local services and policing for those working in, living in, and visiting the Square Mile. It also provides valued services to London and the nation. These include the Barbican Centre, Barbican Music Library, Guildhall School of Music & Drama, Guildhall Library, Guildhall Art Gallery and Roman Amphitheatre, London Metropolitan Archives, a range of education provision (including three City Academies); five Thames bridges (including Tower Bridge and Millennium Bridge), Central Criminal Court at Old Bailey, over 10,000 acres of open spaces (including Hampstead Heath and Epping Forest), and three wholesale food markets. The City of London Corporation is London's Port Health Authority and also runs the Animal Reception Centre at Heathrow. For more details, visit www.cityoflondon.gov.uk

<http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/>

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