

### **Background: SO Festival & Garsington Opera**

Garsington Opera has been presenting a screening of a range of operas at SO Festival over a number of years. In 2015, the presentation took place in Louth, and from 2010-2014 the opera has been shown on a big screen on the beach at Skegness as part of the festival. In 2016, Opera for All and SO Festival collaborated to create a 'garden party' space to screen the opera; with picnic tables, a white picket fence and free tea, coffee and cake served from an airstream caravan.



### **Background: SO Festival**

Since 2009, East Lindsey District Council has worked with Arts Council England to stage one of the East Midlands' largest and most diverse outdoor cultural events – SO Festival.

The theme for SO Festival in 2017 is play. This will be referenced throughout the 2017 event through a series of new digital & gaming commissions, together with increased opportunities for communities, groups and schools to participate in the development of the programme, using their free time to play with the Festival.

SO Festival will continue to have a vintage, steam punk feel, referencing the locality and providing a 'hook' for the audience.

### **Background: Garsington Opera for All**

Garsington Opera for All is an exciting three year partnership between Garsington Opera, the charitable trust Magna Vitae, and the Coastal Communities Alliance, and is supported by Arts Council England's Strategic Touring Fund.

With particular focus on isolated coastal communities, Garsington Opera for All works in collaboration with local authorities and cultural organisations across four

**SO Festival 2017**  
**Artist Open Call for Young People's Project**  
**In partnership with Garsington Opera for All**



main areas of the UK; Thanet (Kent), Grimsby, Skegness and Somerset. In these partnership areas the programme delivers free public screenings of live performances from Garsington Opera, alongside a wider programme of participatory learning sessions for schools and adult groups aiming to promote, develop and sustain cultural opportunity in each area.

**The Role**

SO Festival & Garsington Opera for All wish to commission an artist to work with a group of young people (up to 15) from Skegness to curate, budget and deliver the space for the screening of *Semele* by Garsington Opera. The LED truss screen and the space for screening the opera is already identified and budgeted for. It is expected that the space will have:

- A seating area for audience (up to 200)
- Activities for children and families
- Any additional dressing for the space

The artist will:

- Facilitate a series of workshops with the group of young people to explore themes and possibilities for the space
- Working with the young people to select seating and dressing for the area on their chosen theme
- Identify appropriate family activities that complement and support the themes of the festival and of *Semele*.

*Handel's opera Semele is a love story with a twist; the god Jupiter is captivated by the beauty of the all-too-human Semele. Jupiter entrances Semele by promising that 'Where e'er you walk' he will arrange for trees to provide welcome shade, and that at her every step, flowers will blossom into life. She rejoices, with unabashed sensual delight, in everything that Jupiter has to offer, singing triumphantly of 'Endless pleasure, endless love'. In this parable of over-ambition and over-indulgence Semele flirts with danger by demanding immortality and suffers the consequences, leaving behind her one life-enhancing legacy - her son, Bacchus, god of wine. Inspired by the dramatic and colourful mythological characters, Handel's music is powerfully seductive. Semele features some of Handel's most beautiful music, with soaring choruses and splendid orchestral writing enhancing this most touching and humorous opera.*

It is expected that the artist will be experienced in:

- Facilitating groups of young people within a cultural setting
- Ensuring that young peoples voice & decision making is at the heart of developing arts programming
- Have knowledge of developing outdoor spaces and family activities
- Have knowledge of outdoor arts work

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**Budget**

The artist's fee for the work is £1500, which we expect will require a commitment of approximately 6-8 days (including 2 days at the festival on the weekend of 1 & 2 July). In addition, a budget of £6000 is available for the creation of the space.

**The Process**

We would like to invite initial ideas from artists of all disciplines for this work.

Expressions of interest should include:

- A description and any visuals of your approach to this work, paying particular attention to your skills and experience of facilitating work with young people. Your language needs to be clear and concise.
- A short CV and supporting statement of why you are applying for this opportunity (no more than one side of A4 please).
- Up to ten images of previous work. If you intend to send any film please edit to no more than three minutes long and please do not ask us to refer to websites as we may not have time to do so during the shortlisting process. If files are large, images should be sent via DropBox or WeTransfer.

**Selection Process and Timescale**

- Deadline for the submission of entries is 5pm, Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2017
- Selection of shortlisted artists in week commencing Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2017
- Interviews will take place week commencing Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2017 through Skype or Phone Conference
- Work will begin with a series of workshops with young people's group April / May 2017 followed by the organisation of preparing the activities chosen by the young people.
- Work must be completed in preparation for SO Festival, Skegness, 1 & 2 July

**Applications should be sent to:**

Katie-Louise Green  
SO Festival Coordinator  
[Katie-louise.green@mvtlc.org](mailto:Katie-louise.green@mvtlc.org) | 01507 613449  
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The artist will be selected by SO Festival and Garsington Opera for All.