



Passers-by become participants on the South Bank

Arlete Castelo and Melissa Mongiat, students of the Creative Practice for Narrative Environments MA at Central St Martins, University of the Arts London, have created an exciting interactive sound installation that is changing the atmosphere of Hungerford Terrace and keeping the spirit of Education at the Royal Festival Hall alive while it is closed for refurbishment.



Making use of the hoardings around the Royal Festival Hall's (RFH) building site, *Gamelan Playtime* invites participation from commuters and visitors in an unexpected moment of collaboration and creativity. The invitingly tactile surface of the installation attracts the hands of pedestrians in Hungerford Terrace: their movements trigger sensors, which release recordings of a Gamelan workshop held in a local Lambeth primary school. The passers-by are surprised to hear the sounds of traditional Indonesian instruments together with schoolchildren's voices mixed together in a startling musical collage.

This installation is the first of several manifestations of *Education at the Royal Festival Hall's Keeping in touch* policy. While the Royal Festival Hall remains closed for refurbishment, the education programme continues.

Arlete and Melissa were thrilled to be offered the chance to create an installation in such a busy location for the RFH, a place that plays such an important part in the lives of many Londoners. "We hope that the music of the gamelan fills the space between the commuters on Hungerford Terrace on their daily journeys, reminding them of the fun times offered by the RFH" says Melissa. Arlete adds that she wants to "disrupt their routines with an unexpected element of fantasy and illusion." With hundreds of commuters passing through the passage at the busiest times, plenty of people are enjoying *Gamelan Playtime* everyday.



For more information:

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Editor's notes:

1. MA Creative Practice for Narrative Environments is a new postgraduate programme at Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design, University of the Arts London. The course pioneers collaborative practice among designers, curators, writers and project managers. Students work in multidisciplinary teams to create and develop proposals and solutions for cultural venues, visitor centres, exhibitions, museums, historic sites, entertainment venues, sports events, shopping experiences, corporate events, product launches, urban and community environments.
www.narrative-environments.com

2. Arlete Castelo and Melissa Mongiat are designers from Portugal and Canada respectively. They have been developing communication and new media projects for the past few years, and are now researching interactive environments, storytelling for events, exhibitions and urban interventions.

3. South Bank Centre Education creates opportunities for a diverse range of people to engage with and contribute to the artistic programmes across the site in each of the art forms, both directly and virtually, locally, nationally and internationally. The South Bank Centre (SBC) attracts more than 3 million visits annually. While the Royal Festival Hall is closed for a major refurbishment, a full programme of activities continues in the Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and Hayward Gallery. The Royal Festival Hall re-opens in 2007.

4. The gamelan is used at the RFH in a variety of workshops and courses, which are open to all members of the public and schools. During the closure of the RFH the SBC's smaller, portable gamelan is being utilised in a series of residencies in local schools and beyond. This project is part of a year long partnership with the CfBT Brixton & North Lambeth Action Zone.

