

LIVERPOOL'S WATERFRONT TO PREMIERE AERIAL SPECTACULAR

- Liverpool to stage spectacular aerial event aboard 'film star vessel'
- High wire performance a highlight of On The Waterfront from July 16-18
- City's Albert Docks and Pier Head alive with hundreds of FREE events

A BRAND-new piece of aerial choreography is set to stun onlookers when it premieres in Liverpool this July - on board a Tall Ship!

'To Kiss a Sailor' is a unique new aerial show that will see acrobats flying up to 60 foot above water throughout the ship's rig - in a jaw-dropping array of beautiful aerial sequences.

The show-stopping spectacular has been devised and directed by artist Charlie Murphy, in collaboration with aerialists Vicky McManus, Alexander Poulter and High Performance Rigging.

Commissioned by Walk the Plank and Liverpool City Council through Culture Liverpool, the show is produced by Remarkable Productions and has been developed specifically for its premiere in the UNESCO World Heritage listed Albert Docks complex for the On The Waterfront event this July 16-18 : www.liverpoolonthewaterfront.co.uk

'To Kiss a Sailor' is an evocative love story of a sailor and his lover performed through a range of stunning acrobatics in the rigging of Square Sail's beautiful, 112 foot-long Tall Ship 'Phoenix' which has starred in numerous Hollywood films such as Ridley Scott's '1492: Conquest of Paradise'.

This romantic aerial courtship will unfold through tentative dance moves on deck, chivalrous showing off in the ratlines to a stunning array of counter-weight flying, corde-lisse climbing and tumbling over the dock.

Mirroring each other's moves as they cartwheel and glide throughout the rig, the lovers continually try to meet but are repeatedly pulled apart through the challenges of distance, timing and bad weather

Drawing on beautiful imagery and stories from the age of sail through to the present day, this romantic story celebrates the romance and challenges experienced by all those touched by life at sea.

Councillor Wendy Simon, Cabinet Member for Culture and Tourism, said: "The On The Waterfront weekends are going to be visually spectacular and a true international festival of art, music and dance. I'm delighted 'To Kiss a Sailor' is making its premiere here - it's utterly appropriate that the city will get to see this unique performance for the first time on our historic World Heritage waterfront."

Director Charlie Murphy said: "I'm really excited to be developing this show for On the Waterfront. We've got a really talented team of experienced aerialists, a beautiful ship - and an amazing location. We're exploring all the creative possibilities of the ship's rig and are looking forward to presenting a really innovative and romantic aerial spectacle that will appeal to everyone."

To Kiss a Sailor will be part of three days of free family fun, that will also include a huge Pirate Muster fun day, and the visually spectacular show 'A Wave to Picasso' which has been devised to pay tribute to the artist during the landmark exhibition of his work at TATE Liverpool. On The Waterfront has been made possible due to funding support from the European Regional Development Fund.

- To Kiss A Sailor will be performed at Hartley Quay on Sat 17th July at 1pm & 2.45pm & Sun 18th July at 1pm & 4.15pm

ENDS

- **Free images relating to this story can be emailed on request**
- **For further information or interview requests, please contact Mike Doran at Liverpool City Council Newscentre on 0151 225 2227 or 0780 145 3918 or Chantal Barton on 0781 455 7487 email Chantal@signaturecollective.com**

NOTES TO EDITORS:

Liverpool's On the Waterfront - FREE Weekend of live events - details:

- **16 to 18 July** will be a show-stopping weekend of quirky live street theatre, visual spectaculars, Picasso-inspired performance and Pirate palavers, starting with 'A Wave At Picasso' which will reflect the world of the great artist in and on the **water**, using light, **fire, pyrotechnics**, soundscapes, music, projections, choreographed performance and a series of **floating** sculptural images.
- The ambitious and spectacular dance weekend from **6 to 8 August** will showcase the very best of international outdoor dance and will be one biggest and best open air events in Europe this year. Music and strolling performances will build anticipation on Friday evening before the large- scale spectacular kicks off with world- famous Argentinian **aerial** company Voala.
- **Charlie Murphy** is an artist currently based in London, UK, whose work includes photography, sculpture, video and participatory events. Her work has been presented in galleries and museums both in the UK and internationally, including the Venice Biennale 2005, Tate Modern, London's Science Museum and The Science Gallery , Dublin. She is based at ACAVA studios, London and has been as ArtSway Artist Associate since 2003. www.charliemurphy.co.uk
- **Phoenix** was built in Denmark in 1929 as an Evangelical Mission Schooner, 20 years later she retired from missionary work and in 1974 was converted into a Brigantine before being purchased by Square Sail in 1988. During 1991 she was converted to the 15th century Caravel 'Santa Maria' for Ridley Scott's film '1492: Conquest of Paradise'. The ship was known as Santa Maria until, in 1996, due to increasing demand for period square-riggers, she was converted into a two-masted Brig and reverted to her original name 'Phoenix of Dell Quay'. Film credits include: 'Hornblower Series III'; 'Voyage of Discovery'; 'Moll Flanders'; 'Frenchman's Creek'; 'The Scarlet Pimpernel'.

- **Culture Liverpool** is a Liverpool City Council Business Unit which funds and delivers culture and events in the city and manages international relations. Its aim is to help Liverpool build on the success of '08 by creating a dynamic programme that reflects the character and creativity of the city, placing citizens at its heart. Liverpool's European Capital of Culture programme featured more than 7,000 events, 10,000 artists and over 60 world or European premieres. The year helped generate £800m boost to the regional economy, attracting 3.5million first time visitors to the city. For more information visit www.liverpool.gov.uk/culture
- **Walk the Plank** is a creative force of artists and event engineers who specialise in weaving together visual images, fire, fireworks and music to create outdoor performance and specially-commissioned events. The company works across a variety of scales, from intimate installations to large-scale theatre designed for thousands. Through touring performances and tailored site-specific commissions, their events connect people with places, and celebrate special occasions. The company worked on both the People's Opening and the Transition (Closing) for Liverpool's Capital of Culture celebrations, and has just been commissioned to create the Opening show for Turku 2011, European Capital of Culture in Finland. www.walktheplank.co.uk
- Between 2007 and 2013 the Northwest of England will receive a total of £521 million (dependent on exchange rate) from the **European Regional Development Agency** (NWDA), this funding will enhance the competitiveness of the regions economy by supporting growth in employment and enterprise. Key targets for the NWOP include:
 - Creating 26,700 net additional jobs by 2013
 - Generating £1.17bn additional annual GVA by 2015
 - Supporting a 25% reduction in addition CO2 emissions generated by the ERDF Programme

For further information please visit www.erdfnw.co.uk