

NEWS RELEASE

Free to explore – Theatre Royal Plymouth throws open its doors for Heritage Open Days 2010

The Theatre Royal Plymouth and the Architecture Centre Devon and Cornwall will be leading tours of both the Theatre Royal and TR2 for Heritage Open Day. This activity is linked to the Plymouth Arts Centre's Ambulation project and part of the national Heritage Open Days. It is a once-a-year chance to discover hidden architectural treasures and provides a unique opportunity to explore and enjoy completely free of charge. The architecture centre's involvement is through its Heritage Lottery Funded - Plymouth: 20th Century City project – www.20thcenturycity.org.uk.

The Theatre Royal is the largest and best attended regional producing theatre in the UK and TR2 is the theatre's architecturally award-winning building which is home to the set, costume, prop-making and rehearsal facilities. There will be models and drawings of both buildings to view at TR2.

There will be a tour of the Theatre Royal Plymouth in the morning and another in the afternoon at TR2 on Saturday 11th September. Booking is essential, for more information and to book - www.heritageopendays.org.uk or email info@acdandc.org.uk. Visitors booked on both tours will be encouraged to walk along the South West Coast Path - www.southwestcoastpath.com or cycle to TR2.

Heritage Open Days activities will take place all over England from 9-12 September 2010 as part of European Heritage Days in which 49 countries participate. Over 1 million visitors up and down the country are expected to take advantage of the four-day event, exploring more than 4,000 buildings and events, ranging from private homes, castles, factories, churches, mosques and temples, historic gardens and parks as well as contemporary design classics.

Baroness Andrews OBE, Chair of English Heritage, said: "Heritage Open Days is about people and places. It is a celebration of our communities and our surroundings. Local people dedicate their spare time to opening properties and organising activities: it is their

knowledge and enthusiasm that make Heritage Open Days happen. English Heritage is proud to support England's largest and most popular grassroots heritage event."

Full details of Heritage Open Days activities are available at www.heritageopendays.org.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

- The **Architecture Centre Devon and Cornwall** was established in June 2006 with support from CABE - The Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment and Creating Excellence, the regional centre for sustainable communities, to promote quality in the design of the Built Environment. It is an independent, not for profit organisation working in the sub-region towards design excellence. For more details visit www.acdandc.org.uk
- The **Theatre Royal** is the largest and best attended regional producing theatre in the UK and the leading promoter of theatre on the South West. There are two distinctive performance spaces, the Theatre Royal and Drum Theatre as well as TR2, the Theatre Royal's award winning production and education centre. For more information on the Theatre Royal visit www.theatreroyal.com
- **Ambulation** is an exhibition at Plymouth Arts Centre, with a series of free events and new commissions by artists and architects who use walking as an artistic practice. Investigate your everyday through the act of walking and explore the historical contexts of the city and its symbols. 14 August to 10 October. Admission free. Plymouth Arts Centre is a visual arts centre with a reputation for its local and international contemporary art exhibitions, independent cinema programme and thriving café bar. For more information on how to take part visit www.plymouthartscentre.org or phone 01752 276990 for a free brochure.
- **English Heritage** is the government's lead body for the historic environment in England and is responsible for protecting the best of the country's unique legacy of historic buildings, landscapes and archaeological sites for the benefit of this and future generations. English Heritage's Outreach department co-ordinates Heritage Open Days nationally. For more details about English Heritage, please visit www.english-heritage.org.uk or contact English Heritage customer services on 0870 333 1181.
- **Heritage Open Days** is England's contribution to European Heritage Days, taking place across 49 countries. Other events in the UK are Doors Open Days in Scotland (www.doorsopendays.org.uk); Open Doors Days in Wales (www.civitrustwales.org); European Heritage Days in Northern Ireland (www.ehsni.gov.uk); Open House London (www.open-city.org.uk).
- Using money raised through the National Lottery, the **Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)** sustains and transforms a wide range of heritage for present and future generations to take part in, learn from and enjoy. From museums, parks and historic places to archaeology, natural environment and cultural traditions, we invest in every part of our diverse heritage. HLF has supported more than 26,000 projects, allocating over £4billion across the UK. Website: www.hlf.org.uk.
- For further details please contact **Marie Sellars – marie.sellars@acdandc.org.uk**.