

STOMP GOES SYMPHONIC AT SOUTHBANK CENTRE THIS CHRISTMAS WITH THE LONDON PREMIERE OF THE **LOST AND FOUND ORCHESTRA**

Friday 19 December 2008 – Sunday 11 January 2009

Royal Festival Hall

This Christmas **Southbank Centre** presents **LOST AND FOUND ORCHESTRA**, the new show from the creators of STOMP (the hit show seen by over 12 million people in 42 countries since its beginnings in 1991). Featuring a 50-strong orchestra of actors, dancers, musicians, singers and classically-trained instrumentalists, all playing found and invented instruments, **LOST AND FOUND ORCHESTRA** at the **Royal Festival Hall** will be the most entertaining, uplifting and unusual new show in London this Christmas.

Celebrating the ingenious concept of creating new instruments from found objects, **LOST AND FOUND ORCHESTRA** are part of a long tradition that ranges from the Vienna Vegetable Orchestra, who play celeriac bongos and carrot recorders; and The Bonzo Dog Doo Dah Band, who famously played the trouser press, to American composer Harry Partch, who created instruments from scratch (including the *Mazda Marimba*, made of lightbulbs).

With a timpani section of **soup cauldrons**, violins replaced by **saws** and **traffic cones** becoming trombones, **LOST AND FOUND ORCHESTRA** provides an emphatic answer to the question, if STOMP were just the rhythm section, what on earth would the whole orchestra sound like? Throw in swinging **aerial artists** banging six-foot long rubber tubes, flying **filing cabinets**, performing **shopping trolleys**, musical **vacuum cleaners** and a **brass bed bass** and you have the makings of an unmissable Christmas show for audiences of all ages.

LOST AND FOUND ORCHESTRA premiered in 2005 at the Brighton Festival, which commissioned STOMP's directors **Luke Cresswell** and **Steve McNicholas** to create an ambitious and experimental new work to celebrate the festival's 40th birthday. Following standing ovations and five-star reviews, LOST AND FOUND ORCHESTRA went on to perform a record-breaking run at the Sydney Festival in 2006. Having seen STOMP become a worldwide phenomenon, including a six year run in London's West End, Luke and Steve are thrilled to be bringing their latest hit to Southbank Centre.

Jude Kelly, Artistic Director, Southbank Centre said:

'We are all very excited and delighted that the creators of STOMP are bringing their latest visionary project – LOST AND FOUND ORCHESTRA - to Southbank Centre this Christmas. They are kindred spirits. We celebrate their sense of adventure, admire their boldness and revel in the sheer joy with which they approach every new project.'

For further press information and images please contact:

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Southbank Centre Ticket Office: 0871 663 2500 www.southbankcentre.co.uk

Full price run: 21 December - 11 January

with ticket prices of: £55 £46 £35 £26 £20 £14

Preview performances: 19 & 20 December (2 shows on 20 Dec)

with ticket prices of: £45 £35 £30 £22 £18 £12

NOTES TO EDITORS:

SOUTHBANK CENTRE is the UK's largest arts centre, occupying a 21-acre site that sits in the midst of London's most vibrant cultural quarter on the South Bank of the Thames. The site has an extraordinary creative and architectural history stretching back to the 1951 Festival of Britain. Southbank Centre is home to the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and The Hayward as well as The Saison Poetry Library and the Arts Council Collection. The Royal Festival Hall reopened in June 2007 following the major refurbishment of the Hall and redevelopment of the surrounding area and facilities.

LUKE CRESSWELL (Lost And Found Director) is a self-taught percussionist from Brighton. His session work as a drummer and rhythm programmer includes Beats International, Bette Midler, Elvis Costello and Bryan Ferry. After working for several years as a street musician and performer, he first created STOMP in 1991. He has directed, with Steve McNicholas, several award-winning commercials and short films. He received an Oscar nomination for the film *BROOMS*, an Emmy nomination for *STOMP OUT LOUD* and co-directed the award winning Imax movie, *PULSE*. He has also received a special achievement award from the Chicago Human Rhythm Project. More recently, Luke co-created both the LFO and the Vegas production of *STOMP OUT LOUD*, and also co-directed the 3D Imax movie *WILD OCEAN*. Luke occasionally performs with STOMP, and is currently conductor of the *LOST AND FOUND ORCHESTRA*.

STEVE McNICHOLAS (Lost And Found Director), from Yorkshire, has worked as an actor/singer/musician/writer with various theatrical and musical groups, starting out with the Bradford Theatre Group in 1973. Through the 1980s he worked with Cliff Hanger, Covent Garden Community Theatre and Pookiesnackeburger. Despite also being an original member of the *a capella* group, the Flying Pickets and a final appearance in *Mr Bean*, Steve no longer performs. He shares directorial credits with Luke Cresswell on STOMP-based films and commercials and their new show, the LFO. With Luke, he composed the soundtrack to the Showtime movie, *RIOT*, and shares the Oscar and Emmy nominations for his work on *BROOMS* and *STOMP OUT LOUD* and co directed the award winning IMAX movie, *PULSE*. Steve also co-created the LFO and co-directed the 3D Imax movie *WILD OCEAN*, released worldwide in 2008.

LORETTO SACCO (producer): Loretta manages all business and projects relating to Luke, Steve and Yes/No Productions, from their base in Brighton, UK. This includes all projects, beyond the performance of the full stage show, related to STOMP worldwide. Before this she was working for a production company in London as an agent for various UK comedians and actors, including Mel Smith, Griff Rhys Jones and Angus Deayton. Loretta co-produced STOMP's performances in both London and Paris, co produced the film *BROOMS* and is the executive producer on the *LOST AND FOUND ORCHESTRA* and the movie *WILD OCEAN*.

GLYNIS HENDERSON PRODUCTIONS LTD is the original co-producer of STOMP with the show's creators **Yes/No Productions**, and general manages and represents a variety of theatre, music and dance productions including Ennio Marchetto, The Overcoat and Spaghetti Western Orchestra.

Found Sound Categorisation: LOST AND FOUND ORCHESTRA explain the different approaches to making music with found instruments by using the *Sachs-Hornbostel* system. Defined by Erich von Hornbostel and Curt Sachs in 1914, it categorises instruments according to the initial source of vibration in each instrument.

Aerophones: Instruments in which the vibrating element is the air itself (bottle bellows)

Idiophones: Instruments in which the vibrating element is the object itself (musical saws)

Cordophones: Instruments in which the vibrating element is the string or strings (bed bass)

Membranophones: Instruments in which the vibrating element is a membrane (soup-cauldron timpani)

Lamellophones: Instruments in which the vibrating element is a *tongue* of metal or wood etc. (football rattle, music box)

Other-o-phones: Noise makers that do not fall into a particular category (vacuum cleaners)