

Media Release: Monday 4 June 2007

Town Crying - A Lone Twin project



A series of public performances across the North East

19 – 29 July 2007

International performance artists **Lone Twin** are working with Alnwick's award winning town crier to present a unique series of seven public performances. Each crying event tells a different story about local places, events and communities back to the people of North East England. The idea is to start conversations about who we are, how we are and how we would like our lives to be.

These conversations in turn will enrich discussions of what places, products, or experiences need to be re-designed, and how, in the region.

Presented in conjunction with **Dott 07** [Designs of the time 2007], Town Crying is part of Vital Signs – a series of projects in which invited artists engage with communities across the region to provoke discussion about how the designed environment affects everyday life and could be improved.

Broadcast by the town crier at locations across the North East at events ranging from car boot sales and markets to festivals and the Metro system, the scripts for each location will be developed through conversations and chance encounters between the artists and the people who live, shop, work or visit that very place. Cries will take place at different times of the day at each location over a period of four hours, where the crier will perform a special proclamation for that place at short intervals - locations include Stowell Street in China Town, Old Eldon Square, Newcastle Quayside, Tynemouth weekend market and Alnwick - the crier's home town. For full details of performances please refer to Listings Information below.

These personal, anecdotal and often humorous commentaries promise to make us all think about the aspirations we have for our lives and the places in which we live. Free limited edition printed scripts of the Town Cry for each location will be given out to audiences at each performance.

Town Crying forms part of North East England's world-class festivals and events programme. Town Crying is produced by Forma www.forma.org.uk, commissioned by Dott 07 and supported by the Design Council, One North East and Arts Council England.

For further information or images please contact:

Sara Harrison, Communications Officer, Forma +44 (0)191 230 6358, sh@forma.org.uk

Hannah Barnes, Communications Manager, Forma +44(0)191 230 6357, hb@forma.org.uk

LISTINGS INFORMATION:

Thurs 19 July Starts Old Eldon Square, Newcastle, 4 – 8pm
Fri 20 July Tour of the Metro, starting West Jesmond station, Newcastle, 2 - 6pm
Sun 22 July Teesdale Food and Craft Festival, Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle, 12 – 4pm
Thurs 26 July Starts Alnwick Castle, 4 – 8pm
Fri 27 July Starts Old City Wall, Stowell Street, Newcastle, 6 - 10pm
Sat 28 July Starts Tynemouth Market continuing to beach, 10am – 2pm
Starts Sage Gateshead continuing over to Newcastle Quayside, 6 - 10pm
Sun 29 July Hexham car boot sale, 12 – 4pm

All performances are free

For full listings information visit www.forma.org.uk / www.dott07.com/go/vitalsigns

NOTES TO EDITORS:

Lone Twin

Gregg Whelan and Gary Winters formed Lone Twin in 1997 to work with performance on ideas of place, context and travel. The company have since created an internationally celebrated body of work, with regular showings across Europe, North America and Australia. Committed to creating entertaining and hopeful performances that remain rewarding to a wide audience, the company's work ranges from context-specific works lasting many days to gallery, studio and stage performances. For further information visit www.lonetwin.com

Alnwick's Town Crier

John Stevens has been Alnwick's official Town Cryer since 2002. He has been Town Crying for a total of 13 years and has won numerous awards. He currently holds the title of "Edinburgh Champion", having won an international Town Crier tournament hosted by the city in March 2007. For more information visit www.alnwicktowncrier.com

Dott 07

Dott 07 (Designs of the time 2007) is a year of community projects, events and exhibitions based in North East England that explore what life in a sustainable region could be like – and how design can help us get there. A partnership between the Design Council and regional development agency One NorthEast, Dott 07 enables communities and individuals in North East England to collaborate with designers in real-life situations. These projects are small but important examples of what life in a sustainable region might be like. Dott 07 projects set out to improve six aspects of daily life in practical ways. They deal with health issues, food, school, energy, tourism, and travel. For more information visit www.dott07.com

Vital Signs

One of the Design showcase events for Dott 07, Vital Signs commissions artists to work with communities across the region to ask who we are, how we are and how we would like our lives to be. By asking such fundamental questions, Vital Signs aims to provoke discussion about how our designed environment affects everyday life, and about the aspirations people hold for their lives and for the places they live in.

The second Vital Signs project entitled Landscape Portrait launches in October 2007, as an online project and as a public campaign at various locations across the North East. A collaboration between artist Kevin Carter, Media 19 and the University of Teesside, the project will contrast the statistical and demographic profiles of three locations across the region with self-portraits generated with inhabitants of each location. For more information visit www.dott07.com/go/vital-signs

Forma Arts and Media Producers

Forma is a creative production agency for ambitious, interdisciplinary contemporary art. Working closely with artists over extended periods of time, Forma produces, tours and publishes groundbreaking new projects that seamlessly combine diverse media. Its extensive international touring programme, delivered in collaboration with major venues and festivals world-wide, pioneers new hybrid forms of music, visual art, film, new media, dance, theatre and live art. For further information, please visit www.forma.org.uk. Forma is supported by Arts Council England