

## Press Release

2 March 2016

### **London Met's supports 14-16 year olds to become designers and makers of costumes for English National Opera's community project at the British Museum.**

In a unique collaboration with the English National Opera (ENO) students in London Metropolitan University's National Art & Design Saturday Club, supported by the Sorrell Foundation, have created costumes and props for the ENO's Baylis Community Programme 2016.

The Baylis Community Programme is the ENO's public engagement programme that works with youth groups, higher education and the wider adult public to produce a public performance inspired by one of their professional productions.

This year 23 designers and makers, aged 14-16 from London Met's Saturday club will work with performers aged 11-16 from Brixton Youth Theatre, Raw Material and the Lambeth Music Hub to create a performance of the first act of Philip Glass' 1983 opera *Akhaten* called *Millions of Years: an ENO community project*.

The public performance will be hosted in the spectacular, glass roofed Great Court at The British Museum.

The young artists and designers have worked with ENO designer Ruth Paton and theatre designer Tom Pye to produce props and head dresses to be worn during the performance. They were also given access to UCL's Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology to give them inspiration and help them to develop ideas for the costume designs.

"This has been a really amazing opportunity for our Saturday club members, not just to develop their practical making skills, but to see their creations as part of a bigger performance" says Widening Participation Manager, Liz Routhorn from London Met.

"It helps them to visualise how art and design can be part of their future education and career.

"The Saturday club gives students access to facilities and people they would not have access to in a normal school environment. The whole point of the club is to allow the members a chance to develop and achieve their aspirations while learning new skills."

The performance will take place in the Great Court at the British Museum on Sunday 6 March 2016 from 16.00-16.30. The performance is open to the public and is free for all.

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## **Contact**

Charlotte White | PR & Internal Communications Assistant  
External Relations | London Metropolitan University

+020 7133 3991  
c.white1@londonmet.ac.uk

## **About London Metropolitan University**

London Met has been providing education to people from all backgrounds since 1848, with the creation of the Metropolitan Evening Classes for Working Men.

Four faculties teach cutting-edge, relevant courses across the arts, sciences, business, law and humanities. Accelerator – London Met’s specialist business incubator – helps graduates get their enterprises up and running and was named among the Top Five ‘Most Active’ accelerators in Europe in 2015, highlighting its contribution to London’s booming start-up industry.

London Met is home to world-leading academics who regularly give expert comment to the media. The University scored well in the 2014 Research Excellence Framework, being ranked 4th in the country for Area Studies and performing strongly in Education and Social Studies.

The University is strongly focused on employability. In 2015, London Met recorded its highest ever graduate employment score, with 91.1% of all 2013/14 graduates in work or further study six months after graduation.

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