

12 December 2013

## **English National Opera and AltiveMedia to broadcast opera live to cinemas worldwide**

**ENO Screen begins with ENO's award-winning *Peter Grimes* on 23 February 2014 and Terry Gilliam's new production of *Benvenuto Cellini* in June 2014**

English National Opera (ENO) and AltiveMedia have today (Thursday 12 December) launched ENO Screen – a partnership to broadcast ENO's unique theatrical productions to 300 cinemas across the UK and Ireland and selected cinemas worldwide, extending the opportunity to see the most innovative contemporary opera in the world to audiences around the world.

ENO Screen will begin with live screenings of David Alden's award-winning production of Britten's *Peter Grimes*, starring Stuart Skelton as the ostracised fisherman, on 23 February 2014 and the new production of Berlioz's *Benvenuto Cellini*, based on the colourful life of the 16<sup>th</sup> century Italian goldsmith and sculptor, directed by Monty Python legend Terry Gilliam in June. From autumn 2014, live screenings will extend to five or six productions a season.

Speaking of the new venture, ENO Artistic Director John Berry said: "ENO's entry into cinemas will be as distinctive as our live work in the theatre, creating a truly cinematic experience. Our productions are already seen worldwide in more than 30 cities and I believe that the cinema broadcasts will enable many more people to enjoy the excitement and passion of ENO's work and will encourage those visiting London to come to the theatre and see an ENO opera first hand.

"We have thought hard about whether to expand our activities into cinema and I believe in AltiveMedia we have now found the right partner to capture and promote ENO's unique artistic personality in an exciting and dynamic way.

"*Peter Grimes* is a definitive work in ENO's history and has proven to be one of our trail-blazing productions of recent years. It's a wonderful way to launch this new initiative so close to Benjamin Britten's centenary year."

Craig Shurn, Managing Director of AltiveMedia, said: "We have a first class technical and creative team who will ensure this will be an amazing spectacle that shows off ENO at its very best.

"We felt that the opera offering in cinemas was incomplete without ENO's unique take, so we're delighted to be working with ENO to bring the most innovative, stunning productions of their type to the big screen. We'll be reaching out to those who already love opera and to people who have never tried it before, helping to build on the growing demand for this kind of quality entertainment."

ENO Screen broadcasts will be produced by Serpent Productions, led by MTV award-winning director and Grammy award nominee Andy Morahan and Producer Dione Orrom.

For further information and booking details go to [www.eno.org/enoscreen](http://www.eno.org/enoscreen)

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### Notes to Editors:

**English National Opera (ENO)** is the UK's leading producer of world-class opera, sung in English. Working with the very best talent from across the arts and creative industries, we create distinctive, highly theatrical productions and stage more new work and contemporary opera than any other UK opera company. We champion British and British-trained talent by placing it at the heart of our performances and providing unique development programmes for singers, musicians, composers and conductors. Our productions are seen by audiences across the world thanks to partnerships with its most celebrated opera houses. Through all our activities we aim to make our work enjoyable, accessible and affordable for as many people as possible.

[www.eno.org](http://www.eno.org)

**AltiveMedia** is an independent distribution company set up in early 2011 by Craig Shurn, former Film Booking Director of the Odeon/UCI Group and Vice President of Sony Pictures International, and by Justin Ribbons, Executive Director, Inspiration Holdings.

AltiveMedia acquires and distributes alternative content events for the UK and Ireland. Altive recently released the extreme sports 3D spectacular 'At The Very Last Moment', the Kasabian rock concert 'Kasabian Live! Live At The O2' and the award-winning feature film 'Vinyl'.

[www.altivemedia.com](http://www.altivemedia.com)

**Director: Andy Morahan** is a double MTV award winning director, and a Grammy award nominee who has worked with notable artists including Michael Jackson and George Michael. Andy recently directed George Michael at the Palais Garnier in Paris – the first time a contemporary artist has been filmed at this prestigious opera house.

**Producer: Dione Orram** many credits include producing the *Phantom of the Opera 25th Anniversary* show at London's O2 and the *Les Miserables 25th Anniversary* concert at the Royal Albert Hall, both for Cameron Mackintosh with broadcasts live into cinemas worldwide. Dione recently produced *Cirque de Soleil: World Away in 3D* with James Cameron, and *Jeff Wayne's War of the Worlds Alive On Stage*.

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