



John Hurt to play Big Brother on National Media Museum Cinema

Screen

1984 (Live Stage Production)

Pictureville Cinema, National Media Museum, Bradford

Wednesday 3 June 2009, 7.30pm

Tickets £12 (concessions £9)

Box office: 0870 7010200 www.nationalmediamuseum.org.uk/1984

The National Media Museum's Pictureville Cinema will be transformed into a theatrical venue for one-night only as Bradford-based theatre company Paper Zoo stage a production of 1984 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of George Orwell's seminal novel.

The event at 7.30pm on Wednesday 3 June will see the worlds of stage and screen collide as legendary actor **John Hurt** will appear on the Museum's Cinerama screen as Big Brother in perfect unison with the live stage production.

Representatives from Paper Zoo and the National Media Museum filmed the actor for his on-screen appearance which will be projected live onto the cinema screen during the performance. Hurt was also recorded reading a passage from the original novel which will be played during the production. This represents the first time Hurt has been involved in *1984* since filming the Michael Radford version of the film 25 years ago which also starred Richard Burton.

Commenting on the production John Hurt said: "Any group of individuals whose singular intention is to enrich our lives should be seriously encouraged. This most certainly applies to Paper Zoo and the National Media Museum. Having played Winston Smith in the film of 1984, it was very interesting to jump over the fence and portray Big Brother and I really enjoyed meeting all those concerned. I wish them every possible success."

Published in 1949, George Orwell's novel *Nineteen Eighty-Four* predicted a totalitarian future and made a deep impression with its many phrases such as 'Big Brother is watching you', 'newspeak' and 'double-think' entering popular use. The production will encapsulate the drama and fear ever-present in the play and provide the audience with a unique insight into the mind of George Orwell.

Colin Philpott, director of the National Media Museum said: "We are looking forward to seeing Paper Zoo bring this classic to life in the Museum's Pictureville Cinema. As a media museum regularly debating and exploring the issues raised by this book; we are offering our audience a unique experience which will allow them to understand how this ground-breaking text continues to play an important part in our media saturated society."

Stuart Davies from Bradford-based theatre company Paper Zoo, and director of this production, said: "We are delighted to be staging Orwell's dystopian classic and are especially pleased to be working in partnership with the National Media Museum. With our seven-strong cast, this dynamic and innovative production will remain true to the novel and yet modernise the setting to represent the unsettling environment which Orwell created sixty years ago."

The production will include an interval. Some scenes may be inappropriate for children. For further information and to book tickets please visit www.nationalmediamuseum.org.uk/1984 or call 0870 7010200.

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For further press information, press tickets, interviews or images please contact:

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Notes to editors:

Cinerama – The Museum's Cinerama screen is a curved screen system developed in the 1950s to allow three projectors to simultaneously project onto the screen. For this performance John Hurt's image will be projected onto the Cinerama screen using a digital projector.



Paper Zoo Theatre Company

George Orwell's *1984* is directed by Stuart Davies and features former Bradford College students and staff. Paper Zoo Theatre Company comprises of nine members; four tutors from the college, four graduates and a company manager. Having performed a showcase, *Road* by Jim Cartwright and the self-named devised piece – *Paper Zoo* as part of the course, the students chose to continue their enthusiasm for acting and form the Company. The Company includes Stuart Davies, Ben Eagle, Martin Knowles, Laura Milnes, Jonathan O'Connor, Damien O'Keeffe, Julia O'Keeffe, David Peel and Kate Shackleton. Thus far they have performed *A Christmas Carol* (Dec 2005); *Waiting For Godot* (Sept 2006); *Twelfth Night* (Dec 2006); *Funeral Games* (May 2007); *Much Ado About Nothing* (July 2007); *An Evening of Joe Orton* (Sep 2007); a touring production of *A Christmas Carol* (Nov 2007 – Jan 2008); *Valentines* on St Valentines Day 2008; a touring production of *Animal Farm* (June 2008); the Company's Edinburgh Fringe debut in August 2008 with *Valentine; The Possibility of Intimacy (in the next hour and eleven minutes)* (Nov 2008) and *The Bells* by Leopold Lewis (Dec 2008).

Cast (in alphabetical order):

Stuart Davies	<i>Goldstein (on screen)</i>
Ben Eagle	<i>O'Brien</i>
Jodie Lowe	<i>Prole woman / citizen</i>
Damien O'Keeffe	<i>Winston Smith</i>
Julia O'Keeffe	<i>Julia</i>
David Peel	<i>Syme</i>
Kate Shackleton	<i>Mrs. Charrington</i>
Emily Thornton	<i>Citizen</i>

and featuring John Hurt as Big Brother.

Stage direction by Stuart Davies

Film direction by Martin Knowles

Lighting by Symon Culpan

National Media Museum

The National Media Museum in Bradford, West Yorkshire, opened as the National Museum of Photography, Film & Television in Bradford in 1983, with a remit to explore the art and science of the image and image-making, and has since become one of the most visited UK museums outside London.

The National Media Museum is devoted to film, photography, television, radio and the web and looks after the National Photography, Photographic Technology and Cinematography Collections, items relating to the history and development of television and The Royal Photography Society Collection.

The Museum is home to two temporary exhibition spaces and programme highlights during 2008 included the Museum securing the only UK venue for *Henri Cartier-Bresson's Scrapbook, Photographs 1932-46, Live by the Lens. Die by the Lens: Film Stars and Photographers* and *Sarah Jones: Photographs*. Entry to exhibitions at the National Media Museum is free.

Other attractions at the Museum include a host of galleries including permanent galleries Experience TV, a hands-on visitor experience about the history, present and past of television, featuring TV Heaven, and the Kodak gallery charting the history of photography.

For more information visit www.nationalmediamuseum.org.uk