

PRESS RELEASE

## **STATION HOUSE OPERA DISSOLVED**

A brand new installation for performance

6-22 March 2014

Beaconsfield, 22 Newport St, Vauxhall, London, SE11 6AY

Installation open Wednesday-Saturday 11am-5pm

Performances on Thursday, Friday, Saturday at 7.30pm

Masters of reconstructed reality, Station House Opera have expanded their reach and created a truly international work that gives visitors the chance to (almost) be in two places at once.

Walk into the installation and you find yourself in a unique space, hovering uncannily between two different countries, where things are both tangible and unreal.

Beaconsfield's stunning London gallery space in a converted Victorian Ragged School and Sophiensæle, former centre of the revolutionary left in Berlin, are merged and overlaid to create a new space that is half there, half not there, caught in a perpetual cross-fade. A door opens wide in one space and slams shut in another. A wall exists and doesn't, setting up an invisible barrier.

This is Station House Opera's first new production since the city scale site-specific project *Dominoes* in 2009 and follows earlier intercontinental performances developed as far back as 2004. Their distinctive engagement with audiences crosses new boundaries with an installation and performance that uses telematics and live video streaming to dissolve creative public spaces in London and Berlin, bringing people from both cities into dynamic connection. People and objects find they are both one thing and another, sometimes dissolving together to make a third, in a disconcerting, arresting and occasionally hilarious meditation on the instability of culture and identity.

*Dissolved* is presented for three weeks during March. By day the installation is open for visitors in London and Berlin (Wednesday – Saturday, 11am-5pm) to explore the transformed spaces with their international counterparts. Each evening the installation is brought to life again at 7.30pm when visitors find their place, merging with the audience gathering in Berlin to watch a group of three performers in both locations create a parable for our globalised times - in turns paranoid, humorous, beautiful, and banal.

*Dissolved* is a collaboration between Station House Opera, Berlin-based artists Florian Feigl and Christopher Hewitt, with Beaconsfield and Sophiensæle, produced by Artsadmin.

Developed through an AHRC Fellowship at Royal Central School of Speech and Drama. Supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England and British Council and by HauptstadtKulturfonds/HKF.

### **PRESS ENQUIRIES**

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

**Julian Maynard Smith** is the founder and artistic director of Station House Opera. He studied architecture and visual art at Middlesex University and has practised since 1978, producing solo and group performance work as well as sculpture and installation. Julian has conceived and directed (and regularly performed in) all of Station House Opera's projects since the company's formation in 1980, including the city scale breezblocks project *Dominoes*, and acclaimed international performances *Roadmetal*, *Sweetbread* and *Life in Paradise*.

*Dissolved* is the first of a series of works researching spaces in which performers and audiences in different parts of the world are drawn to an awareness of the other as being present in their absence. The next project, *Nowhere*, will be presented later in 2014. [www.stationhouseopera.com](http://www.stationhouseopera.com)

**Artsadmin** is a unique producing and presenting organisation for contemporary artists working in theatre, dance, live art, visual arts and mixed media. At its Toynbee Studios home Artsadmin has established a centre for the creation, development and presentation of new work and a space for artists and audiences to experiment. The organisation offers a range of artist development services, including a free advisory service and mentoring schemes, as well as the bursary scheme. Artsadmin is supported using public funding by Arts Council England. [artsadmin.co.uk](http://artsadmin.co.uk)

**Beaconsfield** provides a critical space for creative enquiry, offering a place for artists and audiences to make and experience high quality ('beacon'), challenging, new artworks in a wide range ('field') of contemporary visual art media through commissions, group exhibitions, performances, publications and events. Directed by the artists who founded Beaconsfield in 1994, the charity maintains a unique venue, from which base it commissions and is commissioned, regionally and internationally, with a long history of innovative collaboration with other organisations and individuals on and off site. [www.beaconsfield.ltd.uk](http://www.beaconsfield.ltd.uk)

**Sophiensæle** was founded in 1996 in the former building of the craftsman's association of Sophienstraße 18, Berlin. Sophiensæle is one of the most important locations for German-speaking independent theatre-production - national and international artists are invited to produce and present their works at the space. The Sophiensæle's architecture still reflects the site's turbulent history and initial designation as a place for assembly, craftsman training and banqueting. <http://www.sophiensaale.com>

