



PRESS RELEASE

Monica Ross and Children from Class 4, The Cathedral Primary School of St Saviour and St Mary Overy

Act 47

Anniversary – an act of memory

solo, collective and multi-lingual recitations from memory of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

a performance series in 60 Acts

Closed workshops in November

Cathedral Primary School of St Saviour and St Mary Overy

**Public performance on Tuesday 13 November 2012 at 1.30pm
Southwark Cathedral, London, SE1 9DA**

Act 47 is the first recitation in the series to be delivered by children.

The first school in Southwark to achieve a UNICEF Rights Respecting School Award, Cathedral Primary's participation in Anniversary – an act of memory builds on recent school activities that have focused on the importance and relevance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

"in working towards [the award]..., it transformed the school and has had a great impact on teaching and learning and children's attitudes to each other and the other children around the world."

During November artist Monica Ross is working with children from Southwark Cathedral's Primary School to internalise rights and responsibilities to which every human being is entitled. The workshops will culminate in a public performance at Southwark Cathedral on 13 November, when the children of Class 4 will join Monica in a collective and multi-lingual recitation - from memory - of all 30 articles of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Drafted in the aftermath of the Second World War, **The Universal Declaration of Human Rights** (UDHR) was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly on December 10, 1948, and has since become part of International Law.

Anniversary – an act of memory is a performance series in 60 Acts. Monica and her ever-changing co-performers challenge themselves to learn and recite from memory the entire text of the UDHR. To date, solo, collective and multi-lingual recitations with co-recitators from different communities and contexts have taken place in venues as diverse as The House of Commons and Brighton Seafront. Ross aims to reach her goal of achieving 60 recitations in 2013.

Each recitation is uniquely shaped by the co-recitators and communities who commit themselves to recite from memory. The work draws on oral traditions where memory and spoken repetition produce an embodied form of reproduction, which is at once an act of witness and one of taking responsibility for the transmission of knowledge.

Monica's first public recital by memory of the UDHR was staged as a solo performance entitled ***rightsrepeated – an act of memory*** at Beaconsfield in London in 2005. Since then Beaconsfield and the artist have nurtured an ambition to take the project into the educational environment of Primary schools.

Act 47 is presented by Beaconsfield in association with Cathedral Primary School and Southwark Cathedral. Anniversary – an act of memory UK tour 2011-2013 is produced by Michelle Hirschhorn and supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England.
<http://www.actsofmemory.net>

Anniversary – an act of memory is endorsed by Amnesty International UK and the British Institute of Human Rights.



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