

PRESS RELEASE

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**THE ARTISTIC TEAM OF THE ENO'S NEW OPERA 'TWO BOYS' MEET
PSYCHOANALYST AT CONNECTING CONVERSATIONS EVENT**

Tony Award winner Bartlett Sher will join composer Nico Muhly and librettist Craig Lucas to meet with psychoanalyst Sara Flanders at a Connecting Conversations event on Friday 10 June 2011. The event takes place at 7.00pm at North Library, Manor Gardens, Islington N7 6JX

They will meet a week before the opening of their newly commissioned opera 'Two Boys' a co-production between the English National Opera and the Metropolitan Opera, New York. 'Two Boys' is a cautionary tale of the dark side of the internet, loosely inspired by actual events that occurred in Altrincham, Manchester in 2004.

Connecting Conversations is a series of events bringing together practitioners from the world of psychoanalysis with leading figures from other disciplines including dance, theatre, literature and the visual arts.

The events aim to make connections between individuals, organisations and ideas, and the conversations are made widely accessible via audio files on the website, www.connectingconversations.org. Former participants include Sebastian Faulks, Rachel Whiteread, Tamara Rojo, Alicia Alonso, Anthony Horowitz, Wendy Cope, Loipa Araujo and Grayson Perry.

This event is part of Holloway Arts Festival 2011. For the full festival programme visit www.hollowayartsfestival.co.uk. For more information on 'Two Boys' visit www.eno.org

Members of the press are invited to attend. For more details contact Amy Smith on 07515647208, amy@therowanartsproject.com

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

Media contact: Amy Smith on 07515647208, amy@therowanartsproject.com

Listings Information:

**Connecting Conversations with the Composer, Librettist and Director of the
ENO's new Opera 'Two Boys'**

Date: Friday 10 June 2011

Time: 7.00 - 8.30pm (doors open 6.30pm)

Venue: North Library, Manor Gardens, Islington N7 6JX Nearest tube Holloway Road

Tickets: £10 (£8 conc.)

Booking: free online booking at www.connectingconversations.org, or by phone 07787 814316 (£2.50 fee for phone bookings)

Website: www.connectingconversations.org

Nico Muhly is a New York–based composer whose orchestral works have been premiered by the American Symphony Orchestra, Aurora Orchestra (Seeing is Believing), the Boston Pops (Wish You Were Here), the New York Philharmonic (Detailed Instructions) and the Chicago Symphony (Step Team). Valgeir collaborated with Muhly and perfumer Christophe Laudamiel to create the “scent opera” Green Aria (2009), which premiered at the Guggenheim Museum in New York, and on the ballet I Drink the Air Before Me, commissioned by the Stephen Petronio Dance Company for their 25th anniversary and released on CD by Decca in the fall of 2010.

Bartlett Sher made his opera-directing debut with *Mourning Becomes Electra* at Seattle Opera; he has since directed operas at New York City Opera and the Metropolitan Opera. He is the Artistic Director of Intiman Theatre. Work in New York includes: *Prayer for My Enemy* (Playwrights); *Cymbeline* (2001 Callaway Award for Best Director, first American Shakespeare at the Royal Shakespeare Company), *Waste* (2000 Best Play Obie) and *Don Juan* (all Theater For a New Audience). He is the resident Director at Lincoln Centre Theater, where credits include: *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown*; *Joe Turner's Come and Gone* (Tony nomination); *South Pacific* (Tony, Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Awards); *Awake and Sing!* (Tony nomination); *The Light in the Piazza* (Tony nomination).

Craig Lucas: His plays include *The Light in the Piazza* (Tony Award nomination), *God's Heart*, *Small Tragedy*; his screenplays include *Longtime Companion*, *Prelude to a Kiss* and *Reckless*. He has just completed filming *The Dying Gaul*, which he wrote and directed. His awards include an Obie Award for Best American Play for *Small Tragedy*, the New York Film Critics Award for Best Screenplay for *The Secret Lives of Dentists*, an Obie for his direction of Harry Kondoleon's *Saved or Destroyed*, the Excellence in Literature Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the PEN/Laura Pels mid-career achievement award, Outer Critics, L.A. Drama Critics, Drama-Logue and LAMBDA Literary Awards as well as the Sundance Audience Award. He is the Associate Artistic Director at the Intiman Theater in Seattle.

Sara Flanders is a psychoanalyst in private practice who also works at the Brent Adolescent Centre. The centre which was founded by psychoanalyst Moses Laufer in 1967 offers psychoanalytically informed consultation and psychotherapy to adolescents, with specific concern for the adolescent struggle to integrate adult sexuality. Sara has written papers and given talks on this subject. She also edited the following books: *The Dream Discourse Today*, in 1993, and in 2010, with colleagues Birkstead Breen and Gibeault, *Reading French Psychoanalysis*.

Connecting Conversations is an ongoing series of events bringing together practitioners from different fields and aims to explore artistic creativity and practice. The series is produced by Rowan Arts in association with the following partners: the Institute of Psychoanalysis, the Freud Museum, Hampstead Theatre, Gate Theatre, Sadler's Wells, London Metropolitan University, British Association of Psychotherapy, British Library, The Institute of Group Analysis, The Women's Therapy Centre, UCL Psychoanalysis Unit, Tavistock Centre for Couple Relationships, Wiener Library, Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust. For more information see www.connectingconversations.org

Rowan Arts is a not-for-profit organisation based in North London. It works with local organisations and groups to bring the arts into everyday life through a variety of events, activities and projects. It produces regular larger scale events, including Holloway Arts Festival and Islington Exhibits, that give the wider community a chance

to come together, both as performers and as audience. www.therowanartsproject.com