



**Association of British
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The Guthrie Thrust Stage 1948 – 2011: A Living Legacy

The ABTT announce the British tour of this exhibition, created earlier this year for the Prague 2011 Quadrennial of Scenography and Theatre Architecture.

The exhibition celebrates the unique contribution of the Thrust Stage to world theatre architecture by director Tyrone Guthrie (1900- 1971). This recast the theatre experience and successfully released the actor from the confines of the proscenium arch. The story starts at The Assembly Hall Edinburgh, at the 1948 Festival, with Guthrie's spectacular recreation of the medieval morality *Ane Satyre of the Thrie Estaites*. It is brought up to date with this year's opening at Stratford-upon-Avon of the new Royal Shakespeare Theatre which can trace its pedigree back to Guthrie.

At the centre of the exhibition are beautifully crafted models of peopled auditoria and stages, all to the same scale, of the five key theatres: the Assembly Hall, the Festival Theatre Stratford Ontario of 1953 and 1957, the Crucible Sheffield of 1971, the recreation of the 1599 Globe in 1997 and the new main theatre at Stratford. In the course of this journey some of the other theatres which owe much or little to Guthrie are put in context. These include Chichester, the Guthrie Minneapolis, the Vivian Beaumont New York and the Olivier at the National, all of which are illustrated and discussed.

Accompanying the models are a power point display, which adds many more images, and a 32 page publication with over 50 illustrations in colour and black and white. The exhibition was conceived and designed by Tim Foster, Peter Ruthven Hall and Iain Mackintosh who also researched and wrote the publication.

Three showings of the exhibition are announced:

31 October to 6 January 2012, Crucible Sheffield for the celebrations of the 40th anniversary of the opening of the only theatre in Britain conceived by Tyrone Guthrie and his designer Tanya Moiseiwitsch.

16 January to 10 March 2012, Royal Shakespeare Theatre Stratford-upon-Avon to celebrate the transformation of the Royal Shakespeare Company's new home opened in November 2010. This was originally built as the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre in 1932.

17 March to late July 2012, the Victoria & Albert Museum London where it forms part of the *SBTD Transformation and Revelation: UK Design for Performance 2007 – 2011*. This introduces a stage and theatre design display to the larger theme *Celebrating British Design 1948 – 2012* which has the same start date as **The Guthrie Thrust Stage 1948 – 2011: a Living Legacy**.

It is hoped that the exhibition will then travel to Edinburgh in August for the Festival and to Stratford Ontario for the 60th anniversary of their Guthrie stage.

For further information on the three venues:

Crucible Sheffield c.murray@sheffieldtheatres.co.uk

Royal Shakespeare Theatre Stratford-upon-Avon jane.ellis@rsc.org.uk

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