



Bluecoat 300: Charity, Philanthropy and the Black Atlantic

Friday 24 & Saturday 25 November

This event explores links between the transatlantic slave trade and philanthropy, revealing the presence of slavery and the Black Atlantic in Bluecoat's and Liverpool's history. It takes place in the context of two anniversaries: the tercentenary of Bluecoat, built in 1717 as a charity school for orphans; and ten years since the International Slavery Museum opened

Thursday 23 November 7.30pm

Elaine Mitchener: SWEET TOOTH

Performance at Bluecoat, School Lane, Liverpool, L1 3BX

Join us for the premiere of *SWEET TOOTH*, a powerful music theatre performance interrogating historical links between sugar and slavery, by acclaimed vocalist and movement artist Elaine Mitchener.

This ambitious 50 minute music theatre piece uses text, improvisation and movement, to stage a dramatic engagement with the brutal realities of slavery revealed by the historical records of the sugar industry, and to reveal its contemporary echoes.

Tickets: £7/£5

Friday 24 November 9am-5.30pm

Symposium at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Building, Albert Dock, Liverpool

Like many 18th century Liverpool institutions, Bluecoat was built to a large degree with funds derived from the expanding port. Recent research suggests that at least 65% of regular subscriptions were derived directly from trading in slaves or related industries.

While slavery is often presumed to be counter to or distant from the 'virtuous realm' of philanthropy, this symposium takes Bluecoat as a symbol of a more challenging, contradictory history. It will explore how Transatlantic slavery filtered through and shaped charity, philanthropy, religion, education, philosophy, culture, literature and art.

Keynote speaker Professor Catherine Hall (University College London) will talk on 'Bringing Empire Home'. Contemporary artists' responses to slavery will be discussed, including a consideration of Elaine Mitchener's Sweet Tooth performance (at Bluecoat, 23 November). Four panels of experts, including academics from the UK, USA and Ireland, will interrogate a range of topics: slavery and Liverpool; art, imagination and material histories; reparative histories; and philanthropic exchanges.

Free, booking essential

Full programme and booking from thebluecoat.org.uk

Saturday 25 November 10am-6pm

Participation Day at Bluecoat, School Lane, Liverpool L1 3BX

A day of talks, tours, display and activities, finishing at the International Slavery Museum.

- 10am-6pm** Bluecoat and slavery: archival display about artists interrogating this history
- 11-11.50am** Sophie Jones (University of Liverpool), Subscriptions, Schooling and Slavery: Bluecoat's Early Years, 1714-1725. Illustrated talk on how slavery profits supported the school.
- 12-4pm** Explore: children's drop in activities
- 12-12.50pm** Dr. Jenny Barrett (Edge Hill University), The White Man's dog -Transatlantic Slavery & The Moving Image. Talk exploring the struggles of African American slaves as told through cinema, highlighting films and TV that challenge stereotypical representations.
- 1.15-2.15pm** In the Peaceful Dome exhibition tour led by its curator Bryan Biggs, Bluecoat's Artistic Director, focusing on themes of slavery, colonial legacies and global trade.
- 2.20-3.20pm** Walking Tour: Laurence Westgaph (University of Liverpool) leads this tour of sites resonant of Liverpool's slavery history, from Bluecoat to International Slavery Museum.
- 3.30-4.30pm** At the International Slavery Museum (Merseyside Maritime Museum, Albert Dock, Liverpool L3 4AX): Ink and blood: Stories of abolition exhibition introduced by its curator, Jean-François Manicom, Acting Curator International Slavery Museum.

All events free, booking advised for the talks and tours from **thebluecoat.org.uk**

Film programme at The Arts Centre, Edge Hill University

- Wed 25 Oct** 7.30pm *12 Years a Slave*
Thu 2 Nov 7pm *Frederick Douglass and the White Negro*
 (introduced by Alan Rice, University of
 Central Lancashire)
Wed 6 Dec 7.30pm *Wuthering Heights* (2011)

Tickets and Information: www.edgehill.ac.uk/artscentre/

Bluecoat 300: Charity, Philanthropy and the Black Atlantic is a collaboration between Bluecoat, International Slavery Museum, University of Central Lancashire, Edge Hill University, Liverpool Hope University, University of Liverpool, Liverpool John Moores University and the Centre for the Study of International Slavery.