

Patron: Her Majesty the Queen

## Press Release

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### World premiere of **The Difference Engine** Featuring a new score by **Dario Palermo**, supported by the **RPS Drummond Fund** 12-22 October, Gate Theatre, Notting Hill, London (part of Dance Umbrella)

Following the death of Sir John Drummond in 2006, a new fund was established by Bob Lockyer and the Royal Philharmonic Society to commission new music for dance – two of Sir John's enduring artistic passions.

In June 2011, the RPS Drummond Fund made three awards, with new collaborations between choreographers and composers now in development for 2011, 2012 and 2013\*.

The first of these works, *The Difference Engine*, a collaborative work between choreographer **Ben Duke**, **Will Duke** and **Zoë Svendsen**, with a new score by **Dario Palermo**, supported by the RPS Drummond Fund, receives its world premiere performances from 12-22 October at Notting Hill's Gate Theatre as part of Dance Umbrella.

*The Difference is Engine* is a vital and captivating interplay between dance, live and electronic music, interactive video and animation. This new Dance Umbrella commission manipulates time and memory by exploring what occurs in the world's primordial past, physical present and technological future.

*The Difference Engine* creates a richly layered, imaginative environment in which the performers - two dancers and a singer - are accompanied by Palermo's specially commissioned score. Presented in the intimate surroundings of the Gate Theatre, the piece uses interactive technology as a storytelling tool to create a wholly immersive experience.

The artistic team behind *The Difference Engine*, talk about the work in a post-performance discussion on Saturday 15 October (free to ticket holders).

Tickets, priced £10 (preview 12 October); £17 (£12 concessions) are available from [danceumbrella.co.uk](http://danceumbrella.co.uk) or 0844 412 4312

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**\* About the RPS Drummond Fund**

**The RPS Drummond Fund** was set up by Bob Lockyer and the Royal Philharmonic Society in memory of **Sir John Drummond**, former director of the BBC Proms, Controller of Music at the BBC, Controller, BBC Radio 3 and former director of the Edinburgh International Festival who died in September 2006, and **Lydia Sokolova**, the great English-born ballet dancer who danced in Diaghilev's Ballets Russes from 1913- 1929.

There were two great loves in Sir John Drummond's life; music and dance. The RPS Drummond Fund was established to support these two art forms with the principal aim of commissioning music for dance by providing financial assistance towards the commission fees of composers.

Alongside support for **Dario Palermo's** score for **The Difference Engine**, the RPS Drummond Fund announced support for two further collaborations: The **Aurora Orchestra** will combine with choreographer **Mickael Marso Riviere**, **Company Decalage** and composer **Julian Philips** in a new work that juxtaposes 'breaking' and orchestral music. The piece will be premiered in 2012 as part of Aurora's groundbreaking New Moves series at London's LSO St Lukes, and touring the UK.

*Forms entangled, shapes collided*, a collaboration between leading contemporary music ensemble **Psappha**, composer **Kenneth Hesketh** and choreographer **Sharon Watson**, Artistic Director of **Phoenix Dance Theatre** takes as its inspiration Greek philosophy and the theory of atomism – the idea that the world consists of two fundamental principals; atoms and void. The piece will tour nationally in 2013.

The RPS Drummond Fund advisers are **Val Bourne**, **Christopher Cooke**, **Nigel Hinds**, **Bob Lockyer** and **Gillian Moore**.

**Full details of the RPS Drummond Fund can be found at**  
**[www.royalphilharmonicsociety.org.uk](http://www.royalphilharmonicsociety.org.uk)**