

September 2010

STATION HOUSE OPERA

DOMINOES



Created by Station House Opera
Artistic Director Julian Maynard Smith

Produced by Artsadmin

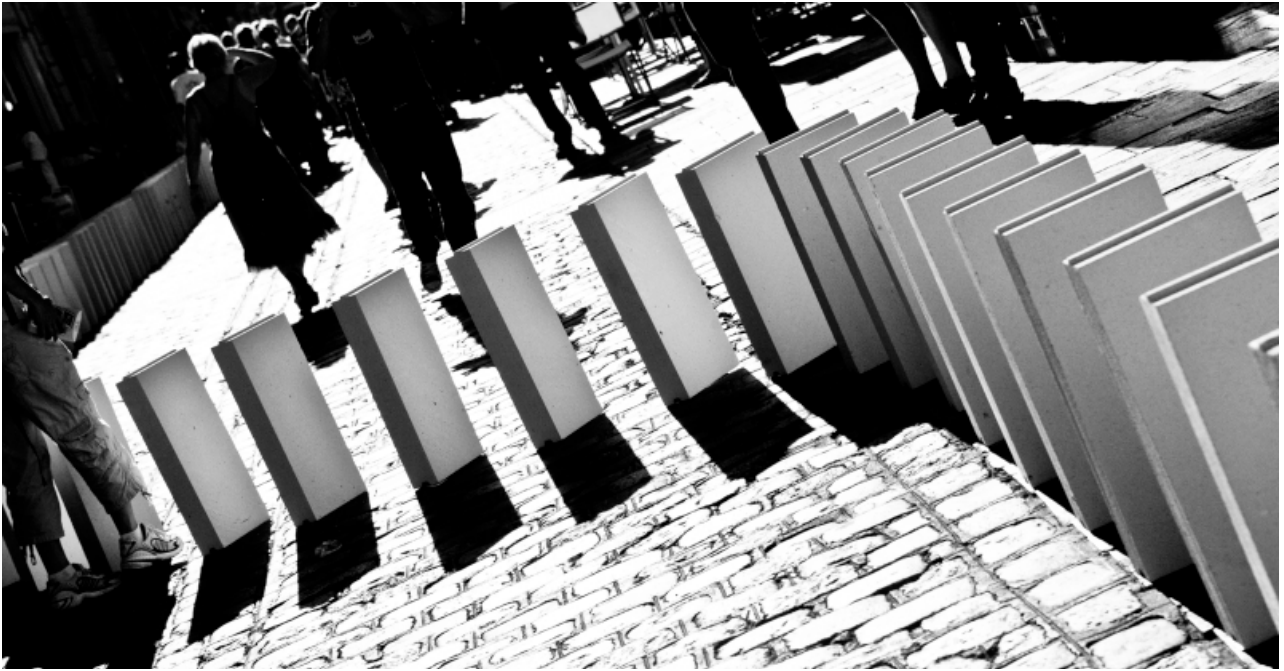
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A MOVING SCULPTURE

DOMINOES takes as its starting point the simplest of ideas... a line of dominoes. Thousands of breezeblocks are used to create a moving sculpture which runs across the city, unfolding over the course of the day.

On streets, through parks, buildings and even on water, occasionally disappearing and then resurfacing, sometimes pausing for sculptural performances, the domino line threads its way through historical and everyday parts of the city, linking its diverse communities in a symbolic as well as physical chain of cause and effect.

Creating a celebration across the whole city, DOMINOES transforms the rhythm of the city for one special day. Hundreds of volunteers and audience members gather together to make this exceptional and unique event.

ART, ARCHITECTURE AND THE CITY

DOMINOES takes a simple concept and uses it to create an alternative vision of the city, counterpointing, complementing and playing with the architecture, and for a brief moment reclaiming the city streets for the inhabitants and the public.

A PARTICIPATORY EVENT

DOMINOES has the power to bring communities together through participation and engagement. Large numbers of people have the opportunity to become involved in the project and to be responsible for a major art event in their city. Participation in DOMINOES doesn't require particular skills or significant time investment; everyone has the opportunity to take part and to be at the centre of this memorable event.

"It was exciting and madness at the same time, making it a very memorable event, also it was incredible the amount of people who were involved and as one of the volunteers I want to thank everyone for a rather unique Sunday."



ONE CONCEPT, MANY POSSIBILITIES

DOMINOES is a site-specific installation, a moving sculpture with possible performative elements, which can be recreated and adapted for different cities and contexts.

Winner of the Bank of America Merrill Lynch CREATE09 Art Award, DOMINOES was originally created in London on 26 July 2009, linking the five 'host boroughs' for the 2012 Olympics. The 8000 blocks made an eleven kilometre journey, which included an opening event, a block 'picnic' and a performance finale: a structure of thousands of blocks brought to life by a group of performers.

At the other end of the scale a shorter run of DOMINOES opened Diese festival in France with the festival Entre Cour et Jardins, running through the historical streets of Dijon, and launching the opening concert.

The journey can be enriched by performances, stops, sculptures, a unique starting ceremony and other ideas which would be developed in partnership with the venue, designed particularly to complement the specific context.



STATION HOUSE OPERA

With past projects ranging from spectacular site-specific works created with concrete blocks to simultaneous performances across continents using live internet streaming, Station House Opera is an internationally renowned performance company with a unique physical and visual style. Founded in 1980 it has produced over 30 productions of widely varying scale and focus, all rooted in an interest to make work that brings together theatre and the visual arts in a single unified vision.

The company has created projects in a variety of locations all over the world, from New York's Brooklyn Bridge Anchorage to Dresden's historic Frauenkirche and Salisbury Cathedra, and has toured the world, from Azerbaijan to Kosovo, China to Brazil.

Station House Opera is led by artistic director and co-founder Julian Maynard Smith and has worked with over 100 performers in various projects.

Photographs by Simon Corder, Jonas Jacquel and Marine Thévenet.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

ROUTE

The route, installation and performances will be decided by artistic director Julian Maynard Smith alongside the commissioning partner's programmers and production manager: the length of the route depends on the available budget, the choice of the route itself upon the visual impact, space for audiences and permissions to cross streets, stop traffic etc.

BLOCKS

In London, UK standard breeze blocks were used, 440x215x100mm, 4.5 kilos.
In Dijon, French breeze blocks were used (beton cellulaire - syporex), 600x200x100mm, 6 kilos.

The commissioning partner needs to provide the blocks, in agreement with artistic director Julian Maynard Smith during a pre-production visit. We would be happy to explore the possibility of sponsorships with local block providers.

Calculation (based on UK breeze blocks)

No of blocks	Length	No volunteers
2 blocks	70cm	
20 blocks	7m	1 volunteer
2000 blocks	700m	100 volunteers
5000 blocks	1750m	250 volunteers

Calculation (based on French breeze blocks)

No of blocks	Length	No volunteers
2 blocks	1m	
20 blocks	10m	1 volunteer
2000 blocks	1km	100 volunteers
5000 blocks	2.5 km	250 volunteers

These tables are indicative and can change depending on specific routes and volunteer structure (eg. In Dijon fewer volunteers were used but team leaders took greater responsibility).

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are managed and recruited by the commissioning partner and are organised into teams, each of which is led by a team leader (usually one team leader for ten volunteers). The volunteers are required for one meeting before the event, and then on the day. They are usually responsible for laying out and stewarding around 20 blocks each.

PERMISSION / AUTHORISATION AND LOGISTICS

The commissioning partner needs to obtain the relevant permissions from local authorities and the authorisation to stage the project in public spaces.

The commissioning partner deals with the management of the blocks, transport and cleaning.