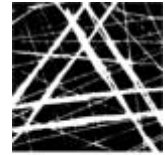


31st March 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



arcola  
theatre

27 Arcola St  
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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **ARCOLA TO BECOME THE WORLD'S FIRST CARBON NEUTRAL THEATRE PLANS TO BE UNVEILED – 20 JULY 2007**

Dalston's Arcola Theatre, one of the UK's leading fringe venues, is aiming to become the world's first carbon neutral theatre through the installation of state of the art energy saving and renewable energy technologies including biomass heating, solar panels and fuel cells.

An ambitious renovation and extension plan will involve the upgrading of Arcola's existing facilities, focusing on energy demand reduction and on-site energy generation. Measures will include the use of energy efficient stage lights and the use of renewable electricity via solar cells that will cover the Arcola's roof, supplying all of the theatre's electricity needs and exporting excess to the national grid.

In tandem with these developments, Arcola is planning the first energy technology "incubator" within a UK arts venue. This will be a dedicated space where scientists and engineers can research initiatives to tackle climate change.

Arcola is aiming to use its experience to promote new energy technologies in other theatres and arts establishments as well as in the surrounding community. It already enjoys close links with the multi-cultural area of Stoke/Newington/Dalston through a variety of theatre groups, including the Arcola Youth Theatre and the Arcola Writers Group.

The Arcola's plans have been spearheaded by Dr Ben Todd, the theatre's Executive Director, who spent eight years at Cambridge University researching clean energy. He said:

"Implementing clean energy technologies will be a very powerful tool in raising awareness of their practicality and relevance."

“Our renovation plans also provide us with an excellent opportunity to build on our strong ethic of community involvement. For example, wherever possible materials used will be locally sourced to reduce transport costs and environmental damage.”

“As a theatre, we have a longstanding tradition of innovation, inspiration and deep integration with the local area. Working to the same principles, we aim to pioneer practices that will fundamentally change the way arts organisations work.”

**The Arcola will launch its plans to become carbon neutral on Friday 20 July at 12 midday at the Arcola Theatre, Arcola Street, London E8 2DJ. This will be an invitation only opportunity to meet the team behind the project and to learn more about the new venture. If you would like to attend the launch or if you would like further information, please contact:**



**Ben Todd, Arcola Theatre**  
Email: [ben@arcolatheatre.com](mailto:ben@arcolatheatre.com)

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Note to editors:

The Arcola Theatre was founded in 2000 by Artistic Director Mehmet Ergen, when he converted a textile factory on the borders of Stoke Newington/Dalston into one of London’s largest and most adaptable fringe venues. Since its inception, Arcola has won a string of awards, including the Time Out Live Award in 2003 and 2005. It has also gained a reputation for staging innovative work by renowned actors, writers and directors, as well as maintaining a strong commitment to involving the local community.