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## **Press Release | Opening | ECO-FRIENDLY ARCOLA WITH SIMPLE8 PRODUCTION**

Last summer the Arcola theatre in north London launched its plans to become the world's first 'carbon neutral' theatre. That plan now moves into its second phase as, in collaboration with production companies Simple8 and Strawberry Vale they launch their first ecologically sustainable theatre production on 12 February: *The Living Unknown Soldier*. It will be powered by a fuel cell donated by the London Hydrogen Partnership and audited by Global Action Plan, while BASH Creations are turning the Arcola bar into an eco café.

On the 90th anniversary of the end of First World War, 'brave young company' (Evening Standard) Simple8 present their second production: *The Living Unknown Soldier*. It follows their 2006 critically acclaimed sell-out success *Les Enfants Du Paradis* (Arcola).

France, 1918. The Great War has ended. Thousands are missing. Relatives are desperately seeking their loved ones as men return from the front. A soldier is found wandering a station platform. With no knowledge of his identity, or the country he has been defending, he is diagnosed with amnesia and committed to an asylum. Saved from death but exiled from life he faces a no-man's land once more.

As news spreads across the country, families flock to him in search of the fathers, brothers, husbands and sons who may never come home. This one man becomes a symbol for a generation ripped apart by war – a living unknown soldier.

Artistic Director Mehmet Ergen said: "I am absolutely delighted to welcome back Simple8 and Strawberry Vale Productions after the total success of *Les Enfants du Paradis*, the sell-out *Notes from Underground* by Dostoyevsky and our first West End transfer, *Mojo Mickybo* by Owen McCafferty."

*The Living Unknown Soldier* is based on *Le Soldat Inconnu Vivant* by Jean-Yves Le Naour. It explores the fine line between memory and imagination and serves as a timely reminder of the fallout from war. Created using Le Naour's book, the original source material and the company's own imagination the result is a war story, a ghost story, an absurd comedy and a chilling tragedy where the ensemble will rise from a no-man's land of mud to imagine and remember the life of the living unknown soldier.

Source: <http://www.roguesandvagabonds.co.uk/cgi-bin/newslist.pl?bid=10272&num=1&farch=3&coinc=0&fkey=arcola>