

Terminus Treats for Twenty Twelve Transcript

0:00 Audio

[Music]

0:22 Sarah Davies

UP Projects is a public art commissioning organisation. And we were commissioned to create a creative programme of installations, interactive performances, and basically exciting moments that could happen around the three stations, Kings Cross, St. Pancras and Euston. And all of that was to basically excite and engage and entertain the masses of people that are expected to come through the stations for the Olympic Games.

0:53 Rebecca Pelly-Fry

In developing the summer cultural programme for Camden, we realised that whilst the stations Kings Cross and St. Pancras have been working hard on all the transport and logistics for the Olympic Games, that there was a bit of a gap in that nobody had been really thinking about what if there have been queues and how are we going to entertain people and make sure that this area is really vibrant and lively and shows off Camden in its best light. There were particular issues that we were looking at sort of using arts and culture to alleviate potential problems. One was the potential queues for the javelin train outside St Pancras on both sides. So we asked UP Projects to look at that issue.

1:28 Sarah Davies

UP Projects responded with a programme called *Terminus Treats for Twenty Twelve*. We commissioned Bread and Goose, an interactive theatre company, to create live art performances specifically for the cues in St. Pancras.

1:42 Audience Member

Everyone comes out of the station and sees everybody sort of having fun and it just lightens everybody's mood. So everyone's walking through happy and it's really, really good.

1:51 Audience Member

It an experience, something I didn't expect at St. Pancras here. But I enjoyed it.

2:01 Alison Neighbour

We've come up with some stories from around St Pancras. We did a lot of research found lots of historical interesting facts, and we've got four different stories. So we've got one performance which is based on a legend of Queen Boadicea, who is apparently buried under platform nine. So we have a story in which the waterboard come and they're digging up some land, and two of the men know that there's treasures buried and they're trying to find the treasure. And that ends with Queen Boadicea rising from the dead and chasing them through the queue. We have another story about the Beijing Express, we found out that apparently the Chinese are planning to build a railway line from London all the way to Beijing. It's only going to take two days to get there. So we thought we'd come up with a story about that, which is also incorporates the Chinese Romeo and Juliet, which is called Butterfly Lovers. That story features a lot of Chinese emblems, butterflies, the dragon and it's basically a love story when two people meet - one from London or from China. We also have around the world in 80 days, famous story about Phileas Fogg going around the world in 80 days. We're taking bets from the audience to see who can do it. And then we have three people that try and do it themselves in less than 80 days, just in 18 minutes. The fourth one is about John Betjeman, who in the 1960s campaigned to save the beautiful gothic architecture of St. Pancras station, which was threatened with being knocked down and replaced with a concrete block. He formed a protest to save it. He succeeded. We also incorporated some in charleston dancing and some waltzing, because the last party held at the Grand Midland hotel was in the 1920s / 1930s.

3:31 Audience Member

John Betjeman invited me out to dance. It was good to dance with a famous person.
[Laughing]

3:37 Emma Underhill

We've commissioned some artists called Stans Café to create one of their step series, which is specifically for the Olympics, and it's called Golden steps. And it's leading people from Euston station up to St Pancras along the Olympic walkway. And they've created lots of different installations that are painted onto the pavement. And they illustrate the different Olympic activities. And they're actually looking at record breaking moment. So we've got Usain Bolt's sprint, and you can just see how big his footsteps are. And you can kind of try and copy them. And the idea is that to get people involved and try and guess what the sport is by the footsteps and the little hints that are there, and also by the name, and then what we did is that after Stans Café developed that idea, we invited Rosie Heafford who is a choreographer to develop a series of dance performances working with two dancers. So they are sort of inspired by the footsteps that are painted on the pavement.

4:38 Rosie Heafford

We've approached them in different ways. Some are kind of more dance serious and some are a bit more playful with audience engagement. One in particular is the long jump, which each time is us trying desperately to get as far as. There are two dancers involved in the project. And even with the help of two dancers, we're not able to meet the long jump distance that was created in 1908. And there are other ones like the weightlifting which has had a lot of response from the crane workers up above as Matt tries to lift Alice and weight lift with her. There are other ones like the judo which are quite playful.

5:15 Audience Member

I think it's fantastic. And it just adds a whole atmosphere. And it just is part of what makes London so magical. I dragged my cousin along because I'd heard about it already.

5:23 Audience Member

I thought it's a fantastic idea that they all come down, get dressed up, lighten up the place. And yeah, just make it better for everybody - we had fun didn't we?

5:33 Sarah Davies

Finally, we created a web platform, which contains a collection of apps and fun links and useful local information for people to log into on their mobile phones and use while they're hanging around and waiting in the queues for their trains. We hope that Terminus treats gives people an opportunity to experience the real creative aspects of Camden as well as London during the Olympic Games.

6:01 Audio

[*Music*]