



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

- 31 January 2012 -

### **Norfolk people to welcome Olympic Torch with special show**

Norfolk born Aaron Sillis, one of the country's brightest young dancers and choreographers will return to Norwich next month (February) to help create a unique stage show with people from across Norfolk. The spectacular performance, called Pulse, will form part of the London 2012 Evening Celebration show when the Olympic Torch Relay visits Norwich in July.

A partnership between Norwich City Council, The Garage and Norwich and Norfolk Community Arts (NORCA), Pulse will bring together people with a talent for performance and those from physical disciplines.

Carrie Mansfield, the Pulse Project Manager said: "Pulse will be a feast of rhythm and movement. We're looking for excellent percussion musicians along with people who have great physical skills, whether it be in martial arts, dance, circus, gymnastics or any sporting field."

The Pulse project has been granted the Inspire Mark by the London 2012 Inspire programme. Seb Coe, Chair of the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games said; "Pulse is encouraging young people to fulfill their potential. I am proud that with the help of partners such as The Garage and NORCA, we are delivering our vision to use the power of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games to boost participation of young people in creative arts and performance."

Sillis, 28, has worked with Kylie Minogue, Take That and the acclaimed Matthew Bourne Dance Company since leaving Drayton, near Norwich. He'll return to the city during February half term to host four master classes for 11-25 year olds at venues in and around Norwich. These open classes will give people the chance to explore how their skills can be turned into performance work.

The project is designed to build anticipation for the 2012 Games and will bring together people from all backgrounds to work together on a sporting and creative piece. The master classes form the first part of the project that will ultimately lead to the final performance in Chapelfield Gardens on Wednesday 4 July.

During the master classes, the production team from The Garage will be on hand, as part of the recruitment process for the second phase of the project - the Pulse performance auditions.

The auditions will be open to everyone, of any age, across Norfolk and will take place at The Garage in March. They will be followed by a 'bootcamp' and then rehearsals throughout May, June and July. "We want the auditions to bring together the very best from around Norfolk," says Carrie, "they'll have that real X Factor feel! We'll then look to select the final performance group at the bootcamp, and then harness their skills into a new, exciting performance to celebrate the arrival of the Olympic torch in Norwich."

Master classes with Aaron Sillis will take place at venues around Norwich, 14 - 17 February. The classes are free but places are limited. Open auditions take place at The Garage in March. All welcome. For further information, visit [www.thegarage.org.uk](http://www.thegarage.org.uk).

- Ends -

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#### **Notes for Editors**

#### **Master class dates & venues:**

**Tue 14 Feb, 10am - 1pm:** Norfolk Academy of Gymnastics, Besthorpe, Attleborough

**Wed 15 Feb, 10am – 4pm:** The Garage, 14 Chapelfield North, Norwich

**Thu 16 Feb, 10am – 4pm:** Norwich Academy of Martial Arts, King Street, Norwich

**Fri 17 Feb, 10am – 4pm:** UEA Sports Park, Norwich

**Auditions: Sun 4 Mar**

**Bootcamp: Sun 11 Mar**

**About The Garage:** The Garage is a charitable trust running a lively cultural venue in the city centre of Norwich. It offers a varied programme of creative activity ranging from workshops to residencies, projects and regular classes – with a special focus is young people aged 8-25.

**About NORCA:** NORCA's work is based on the belief that Arts and Culture transform individuals and the spaces they share. They work with diverse communities and neighbourhoods to deliver, through cultural activities, a significant step change and legacy for all involved.

**About the Inspire programme:** The Inspire programme is run by the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games. It is an opportunity for everyone to be a part of the London 2012 Games – a broad participation programme spanning sport participation, education, sustainability, volunteering, and business opportunities & culture. New opportunities are being created to inspire young people and encourage the whole of the UK to join in. The Inspire programme has awarded over 1,400 different projects the Inspire mark.

**About London 2012:** The London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games are delivered by two key organisations – the London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG) and the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA).

LOCOG is responsible for staging a memorable Games in 2012. They will deliver the best possible Olympic and Paralympic Games experience for everyone involved, enabling a lasting legacy and inspiring people to join in.

The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) is the public body responsible for developing and building the new venues and infrastructure for the Games and converting the Olympic Park for long-term use after the Games.

In the summer of 2012, the UK will come alive with the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Find out the latest from the London 2012 blog – [london2012.com/blog](http://london2012.com/blog)