

January 2009



Arts Council England – Members Appointment

Barbara Follett, Minister for Culture announced today that **Ekow Eshun, Alistair Spalding** and **Rosemary Squire OBE** have been appointed as National Members of the Arts Council England board. Their terms of appointment will run from 26 January 2009 to 25 January 2013.

Biographical Notes

Ekow Eshun is the Artistic Director of the Institute of Contemporary Arts. As a leading writer and cultural commentator, he appears regularly on BBC 2's *Newsnight Review* and is a contributor to publications including *The Guardian*, *The Observer*, *The Sunday Times*, *Vogue* and *New Statesman*. He has presented several documentaries for TV including the recent *Outback Gold Rush* for Channel 4 in 2008, and *Living on the Line*, for Channel 4, which was winner of the One World Broadcasting Trust Media award for Best Documentary, 2001. In 2006 he was awarded an honorary doctorate for services to the arts by London Metropolitan University.

Ekow was the Editor of *Arena* magazine from 1996-99, becoming at the time the youngest ever editor of a men's magazine when he took up the post at the age of 28. In 1999 he was nominated for Editor of the Year at the British Society of Magazine Editor awards. His first book, *Black Gold of the Sun: Searching for home in Africa and England* (Penguin) was nominated for the Orwell Prize for political writing in 2006.

Alistair Spalding is the Chief Executive and Artistic Director of Sadler's Wells. He has been responsible for programming at the theatre since February 2000. Under Alistair, Sadler's Wells has become a production house for dance, as well as a receiving house presenting performances by touring companies. In March 2005 he announced a new commissioning and producing policy at Sadler's Wells which has resulted in a number of international touring successes including *Push* featuring Sylvie Guillem and Russell Maliphant. He has also initiated projects such as the Breakin' Convention International Hip Hop Dance Theatre Festival, and has recently led the expansion of the Sadler's Wells presentations to the Coliseum as well as other London venues.

Alistair has been the Chair of Dance UK since 2004 and is the external advisor on the City University Validation Board for the Laban Centre London Degree Courses. He was awarded the Chevalier de Arts et Lettres in October 2005.

Rosemary Squire OBE

Rosemary is the co-owner of 23 West End and UK regional theatres and a co-founder and Joint CEO of The Ambassador Theatre Group Ltd, one of the most prolific and broad-based commercial theatre producers in the world. Rosemary is also chair of Great Ormond Street Hospital's Theatres for Theatres Appeal and Vice-Chairman of Dance Umbrella, the UK's foremost international contemporary dance festival. She is also a Trustee of the Hall of Cornwall.

In June 2005, when Rosemary was elected President of the Society of London Theatre, she became the second only female President in the organisation's 100 year history. She completed her three year term in July 2008 and is now serving a further three years as Vice President.

In June 2006, Rosemary won the prestigious CBI Real Business First Women Award for Tourism and Leisure and in December 2007 was awarded an OBE for Services to Theatre.

Background

1. Arts Council England develops and promotes the arts across England, acting as an arms length body from the Government. DCMS recently announced an increase in funding for Arts Council England by 3.3% above inflation over the next three years, taking its total grant in aid to £467m in 2010-11. In addition, Arts Council England is expected to have £500m to distribute from the National Lottery between 2009 and 2012. This provides the bedrock of support for the arts in England.
2. This appointment attracts is not remunerated, reasonable travel and subsistence may be claimed.
3. The appointments process was carried out in accordance with the OCPA Code of Practice for Public Appointments. Appointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process. Ekow, Alistair and Rosemary have not undertaken any political activity during the past five years.