

PRESS RELEASE

Release date: Immediate

Young people from East London present two fascinating short films documenting our love affair with the nation's favourite brew: TEA.

Tea is an intergenerational heritage film project led by young people at *Mouth That Roars* (MTR) and supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). Young film makers from MTR have produced two short films 'Two Leaves & a Bud' and 'Fancy a Cuppa?' which are due to be screened at The Geffrye Museum and on board *Cutty Sark*.

In March this year, twelve young people from East London began working in partnership with local youth media project, Mouth That Roars, the Geffrye Museum, Royal Museums Greenwich and the Heritage lottery youth grants programme, Young Roots, to investigate the history of tea.

"We've been delighted to welcome Mouth That Roars to Greenwich, helping young people in their journey to uncover the history of tea in Britain. It's fantastic to see young people volunteering their time to learn new skills whilst creating a community-wide conversation around the role of tea in multicultural Britain, both past and present." Martha Burns Findlay (Youth Projects Producer at Royal Museums Greenwich)

The young film makers have researched, filmed, cast and directed two short films. One film documents the fascinating and often dangerous history of tea, from its early beginnings in China to our busy East London docks. Who knew that the innocent cup of tea, that is enjoyed daily by so many, is the result of bloody wars, slavery and drug addiction?

Today, research shows that over 160 million cups of tea are drunk by people in the UK every day - now that's dedication! During their research phase, young people have hosted a number of Community Tea Parties in East London with participatory artist Sadia Ur-Rehman and the second film takes a look at the incredible social history of tea. Recording the memories of local people and elders and sharing stories over tea and cake. It seems that no matter where you're from or how old you are there is a strong connection with our ubiquitous cuppa, as guest at our Community Tea Parties have told us:

"Tea! I LOVE tea I could not get out of the house in the morning without a pint of tea!"

"I do like tea. It reminds me a lot of when I first came over to London from Ireland. I wasn't a tea drinker then and I came to live with me sister and everywhere we went to visit me family the kettle was on and there always tea!"

"Years ago Brooke Bond made tea and you used to get cards with it, like cigarette cards, you get a series of animals or famous films stars and you'd collect these cards or swap them at school sometimes. Tea cards...little tiny cards..they don't do them anymore."

"I come from Jamaica and when I first started working here we used to stop work at about 10 o'clock for morning tea. I really didn't like it but gradually, gradually I was forced into it and that how I become to really like tea!"

“What would we do without our tea? It’s part of Britain isn’t it?”

The young people’s incredible journey of discovery has taken them to tea tastings at Twinings, High Tea at the Hotel Cafe Royal and leafing through archives at The Sainsbury Archive. They have made herbal teas with The Geffrye Museum, learnt about trade on the high seas at the National Maritime Museum, how tea impacted on local area at The London Docklands Museum and seen what life was like for sailors on board the famous tea clipper, *Cutty Sark*.

‘I felt really nervous that I would touch the real pieces of time. It was amazing [filming at The Geffrye Museum] the museum is great, we filmed period tea inserts covering the 1700s, 1800s 1930s up to today. It was fantastic to film in the period rooms in costume!’ MTR young film maker.

Their epic journey culminates with two film screenings.

1. ‘Tea at the Geffrye’ a Public Film Screening at The Geffrye Museum:

The first screening of ‘Two Leaves and a Bud’ will be served with tea and cakes at The Geffrye Museum on Wednesday 24th August at 2pm. Groups are invited to come along to The Geffrye Museum . This event is free, but guests will need to book in advance. This event is booking up fast, so please contact: Denise Rose at Mouth That Roars on 02077292323 or email: mouththatroars@btconnect.com quoting the number of places you require and a contact number.

2. ‘An evening of Cha’ Invite Only Screening on board *Cutty Sark*:

The final screening of ‘Two Leaves and a Bud’ will take place on board the world famous tea clipper, *Cutty Sark* for invited guests.

Calling all teachers and youth projects!

Finally, the group will be produce an educational DVD pack including copies of both films, which will be available to local youth projects and schools. We would like to extend a special invite to all teachers and youth project leaders who are interested in promoting discussion about local history and multiculturalism amongst young people in the UK, to attend our special screening on board *Cutty Sark*, where you will be able to pre order your free copy of the Educational Pack. Places are limited, so please contact Mouth That Roars to reserve yourself a seat at this one-off event. We are afraid that we are unable to accept walk-ins at this event. All seats must be pre-booked.

Stuart Hobley, Head of Heritage Lottery Fund London, said: *“The Tea project gave many young people the opportunity to learn new creative skills and has brought communities together over a shared pastime- making a good cuppa! Thanks to National Lottery support, this project has created two fantastic heritage films to take people on a journey through the history of making a brew, and preserve the fascinating cultural legacy of our most beloved tea.”*

ENDS

Note to editors

Mouth That Roars is supported by a £41,600 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for the ‘Tea’ project. We would like to invite members of the press to both events, but please ask that you contact Denise Rose (02077292323) or Melanie Avis (07979694060) or email:

mouththatroars@btconnect.com so that we can provide you with details of the second screening at Cutty Sark and organise a photocall with the young people involved.

Heritage Lottery Fund: Felix Gott, Communications Manager, 020 7591 6138

Photographs from the project are available for print with this press release, please request from Mouth That Roars.

About Mouth That Roars (MTR):

MTR is a not for profit youth media company, that was set up to ensure the most marginalized young people in our local communities have access to media and film training, in order to develop their life skills and improve future life chances. Established in 1998 in a small office off Brick Lane, the company went on to open MTR Studio in Hackney in 2005 - the first youth media studio of its kind in the UK - a place where young people can attend informal training; get information about media; watch and be inspired by independent & world cinema and other young people's films. MTR works with marginalised young people all over the UK and has run international projects in India, the Middle East, Europe and North Africa. MTR has over 1500 young members in the UK and hosts an online site for young peoples' films www.oureverydaylives.tv, which went live in 2011.

About the Heritage Lottery Fund

Thanks to National Lottery players, we invest money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about - from the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife.

www.hlf.org.uk @heritagelottery

About Royal Museums Greenwich

Royal Museums Greenwich incorporates the National Maritime Museum, the Royal Observatory Greenwich, the 17th-Century Queen's House and *Cutty Sark*. Royal Museums Greenwich works to illustrate for everyone the importance of the sea, ships, time and the stars and their relationship with people. This unique collection of museums and heritage buildings, which form a key part of the Maritime Greenwich UNESCO World Heritage Site, welcomes over two and a half million British and international visitors a year and is also a major centre of education and research. www.rmg.co.uk



Young film makers film at London Docklands



Making herbal tea at the Geffrye



Re-enacting social history at the Geffrye



Community tea parties with elders and Age Concern East London



*Film Making By Young People
For Young People And The Wider Community.*

