

NVA announces international touring debut

***Speed of Light* Yokohama, Japan**

Building on the success of 2012's Edinburgh International Festival hit, NVA's *Speed of Light* is delighted to announce its international debut in Japan.

In partnership with the British Council, *Speed of Light Yokohama* will be presented as part of Smart Illumination Yokohama, taking place from 31 October to 4 November 2012. The annual festival, themed on sustainability and energy-saving technology, has commissioned NVA's *Speed of Light* to create a moving nightscape in Yokohama's urban environment over two nights of the festival. It is being presented as the first step in developing a long-term partnership with the company.

Creative Director Angus Farquhar will collaborate with Japanese choreographer Makiko Izu, Director of Tokyo-based performance company Grinder Man, to develop a unique response. Titled *3 movements*, 100 choreographed runners will activate the city streets and waterfront areas over 3 and 4 November.

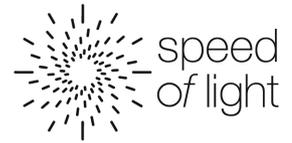
Sparkling lines of runners, each generating their own power and animated by remotely controlled wireless technologies, will create a stunning visual language across a series of landmark sites including the Foreign Office designed International Ferry Terminal, with its remarkable asymmetrical wooden walkways extending out into the ocean.

Angus Farquhar, Creative Director NVA said:

"NVA have spent the last decade choosing to work in rural landscapes across Scotland; with Speed of Light we have a light-touch work designed to travel and take NVA's unique creative methodology into the international arena."

A small creative team from Scotland and 50 light suits can demonstrate a large scale public artwork with minimum infrastructure, utilising energy efficient LED and control systems. The work is delivered with locally-recruited technicians and runners, who will be responding to the unique architecture surrounding Yokohama's waterfront and harbour areas.

We are excited to be working with our partners in Yokohama and the response from runners in Japan displays the same energy and commitment we found in Edinburgh - a great starting point for the production."



Manami Yuasa, Head of Arts British Council Japan said:

“We are delighted that NVA has chosen Yokohama, one of the most internationally-minded cities in Japan, as the place for the first international collaboration for this fascinating art work. Its focus on innovative lighting technology as well as human movement and mass participation fits well in a Japan where new energy-saving technology and collective action, along with the recognition of the need for a creative response from the arts, are all features of the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake in March 2011.

In the British Council in Japan we are fond of saying how creative the UK is and how many opportunities there are for the development of partnerships with the very special creativity of Japan. Well, here is a very exciting example of this. I’m sure that the blending of sport and art in this way will be very exciting for audiences here and I am very excited that so many people at the Smart Illumination Yokohama 2012 will be able to experience this wonderful and unique collaboration between the UK and Japan.”

Smart Illumination Yokohama was established following the Great East Japan Earthquake of 2011 and the increasing need to utilize LED lights, solar panels and other energy generation methods and energy storing systems.

Speed of Light Yokohama is the first of a series of presentations through which NVA will collaborate and respond to cultures and environments across the UK and internationally. Talks are currently underway with new partners in Germany, Brazil, England and in Scotland with Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park.

Please go to <http://www.smart-illumination.jp/> and www.speedoflight2012.org.uk for more details.

Follow on Twitter: @_NVA_ #nvasol
Facebook pages: SOL_Runners Speed of Light Yokohama

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Notes to editors:

1. **NVA** was established in 1992 by creative director Angus Farquhar. In recent years the organisation has achieved international recognition with a number of incomparable and critically successful works, notably *The Storr: Unfolding Landscape on Skye*, *the HiddenGardens*, *Glasgow* and *Speed of Light*, Edinburgh. NVA is an acronym of *nacionale vitae active*, a Roman phrase describing 'the right to influence public affairs'. www.nva.org.uk

2. **NVA's *Speed of Light***, is a tremendous fusion of sport and art bringing runners together through a collective act of mass participation. The work also explores the physical and emotional aspects to endurance running and uses innovative and bespoke lighting technologies to animate rural and urban environments. **NVA's *Speed of Light*** was conceived and premiered in 2012 as part of the Edinburgh International Festival and London 2012 Festival with support from Legacy Trust UK, Creative Scotland, Dunard Fund, the Scottish Government, EventScotland and Paths for All. www.speedoflight2012.org.uk

3. **Smart Illumination Yokohama 2012** utilize public spaces with the aim of merging urban tourism and art. This year, energy efficient night illuminations will be used to decorate public spaces by merging environmental technologies and art. Since the Great East Japan Earthquake, the need to utilize LED lights, solar panels and other energy generation methods and energy storing systems have increased more than ever. Smart-illumination Yokohama recognizes these trends and use LED lightings to artistically illuminate public spaces such as parks and buildings. In addition, the festival hosts workshops teaching the history and mechanism of LED, walking events through the illuminations, night picnics, and live events during the festival. <http://www.smart-illumination.jp/>

4. **The British Council** creates international opportunities for the people of the UK and other countries and builds trust between them worldwide. We are a Royal Charter charity, established as the UK's international organisation for educational opportunities and cultural relations.

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