

NEWS RELEASE

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Port of Tilbury and Thurrock Council "Twelve Days of Christmas"

The Port of Tilbury and Thurrock Council are proud to announce that the "Twelve Days of Christmas" production held annually at the London Cruise Terminal has been shortlisted for the 30th A&B. The project is identified as a key driver in the regeneration of Tilbury and the Thames Gateway.

"Twelve Days of Christmas" won the Community Award in the regional heats in November 2007 and is now a contender for the prestigious National JTI A&B Community Award category. The national award ceremony will be held at the V&A in London on 24th November 2008.

Thurrock Council had the vision that the architecture and design of the 1930's Baggage Hall could lend itself to transformation into a unique venue for the Arts as there were no theatres in the area suitable for staging large shows. Keen to support local community groups, the Port was given the opportunity through partnership with Thurrock Council to engage with the people of Thurrock through the "Twelve Days of Christmas" project, a spectacular show with local schools and community groups benefiting from working alongside a cast of professional singers and dancers.

An enthusiastic team from Thurrock Arts and the Port worked to overcome practical, logistical and financial challenges and a successful new partnership was formed. Each year 1,500 young people and community members take part in 17 performances, attended by over 5,000 local people. Port staff have the opportunity to enjoy the live show free of charge, often starring their own children/grandchildren from local schools.

Cllr Terry Hipsey, Leader of Thurrock Council, said: "The Twelve Days of Christmas is a fantastic show, but it is more than that. It is the embodiment of a flourishing and successful partnership between the public and private sectors – the council and the port – that engages directly with the public of Thurrock and beyond.

"The fact that this partnership has been recognised by the A&B Awards is a testament to the strength of the partnership and the tremendous amount of work that goes on behind the scenes to create something that brings a great deal of joy and fun to everyone be they taking part in the show, or watching from the audience.

For further information please refer to: www.the12daysofchristmas.co.uk

