



Renaissance - July 2005

Renaissance was a one off large-scale event produced by Greenwich and Docklands International Festival and performed on July 16th 2005. Sited at Three Mills in London's East End, the timing of the event coincided with the news of London's 2012 Olympic success and the event was designed to celebrate the regeneration and spirit of celebration in this part of London.

Motionhouse, with Kevin Finnan directing, was asked to create a celebratory event, which would have at its heart a re-worked and developed Machine Dance (originally created for The Edge in 2004). In contrast to the early evening bright beach light of its previous incarnation, Machine Dance was now performed at night under huge banks of light on a wild grassy patch of land in a major urban centre. Taking the theme of the security of our home and positive building and development as a starting point, Finnan created an epic performance which started with the simple imagery of children carrying tiny glowing paper houses, through large screens and shadow play, acrobatics and stilt walking, to a startling section with dancers, diggers, a crane and aerialist working in harmony, before the final moment when giant flaming windows were raised to tower and shimmer across the crowd.

Developed in association with The World Famous, Hive of Industry and Mimbire, and to another spectacular score by Sophy Smith, Renaissance drew a crowd of 3000 people.

