

# Case Study : DARE

partnership  
between

University of Leeds & Opera North

*[www.dareyou.org.uk/](http://www.dareyou.org.uk/)*

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# UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

- 32,800 students from over 130 countries
- With 8,800 staff from 102 nationalities we are the third largest employer in Leeds
- From Arabic to Zoology we offer - 560 undergraduate & 300 postgraduate courses
- We have the highest proportion of the 17 National Teaching Fellows
- The local community benefits from our 2,000 student volunteers
- Part of the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN)
- Member of the UK Russell Group of research-intensive Universities, we value practice led research, the interaction of all subjects with industry and impact
- Won more environmental awards than any other UK university, including the 2009 Green Gown Award for Continuous Improvement in relation to our transport plan

# OPERA NORTH

- Award winning UK National opera company based in Leeds & tours to cities of, Newcastle, Nottingham and Manchester
- Presents both famous and lesser known work, and new commissions.
- 9/10 operas on the main stage each year- a totally of 112 performances each year
- Own orchestra which also gives 20-40 symphonic concerts annually
- Projects and education with 200-300 other events per year.
- Company employs 160 people permanently. In season there are 300-350 including orchestra,
- £ 15million turnover per annum – 70% public funding, 30% generated through box office and fund raising.

In 2006, the University of Leeds and Opera North entered a formal contracted collaborative venture with an initial time period of four years and with four objectives:

- to be a leader in the creative and intellectual life of the city, with an impact felt regionally, nationally and internationally;
- to produce programmes, events and publications that are beyond the reach of either partner acting alone;
- to build connections between the classical and contemporary arts, and between the arts and contemporary society;
- to engage new participants in creativity and academic achievement.

In 2010 the partnership was formally renewed for a further four years.

“ The programme has two distinct but overlapping faces, one public, and the other in house. These are unified by three core themes – *knowledge, skill* and *performance*. Each strand represents a facet of the collaboration and interacts with the others to generate a unique creative and intellectual force “ (contract 2006)

The original four year plan was presented in strands of activity :

- Collaborative Association with an Opera North Production
- Visible University accreditation with the Opera Centre
- OPERAting Theatre : new project development
- Conferences
- Literary Series
- Research
- Pre – show talks
- Work based learning
- Education : Outreach and Inreach
- Documentation and analysis of the collaborative model

## EXEMPLAR GROWTH ACTIVITIES

- OPENCOV - operatic encounters : common voices <http://www.opencov.eu/>
- PETTMAN DARE INTERNATIONAL PERFORMANCE SCHOLARS
- ACADEMY OF CULTURAL FELLOWS (Fellow in Opera Related Arts)
- DIGGING THE SEAM CONFERENCE
- DARE UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOLARS
- COMPOSERS' FORUM
- THE DARE LECTURES
- OPERA NORTH RESEARCH STRATEGY
- UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS ARTS INNOVATION FUND AWARD

# INTERNAL IMPACT

- Relationship building within and across the two institutions
- UoL staff engagement with ON
- Base for creative risk taking
- Enterprise and Innovation in the industry

# EXTERNAL IMPACT

- Enhanced fields of public engagement
- Enhanced opportunities for members of each organisation



# FACTORS IN IDENTIFYING IMPACT

- Documentation
- Stakeholders' interests and perceptions
- Analysis