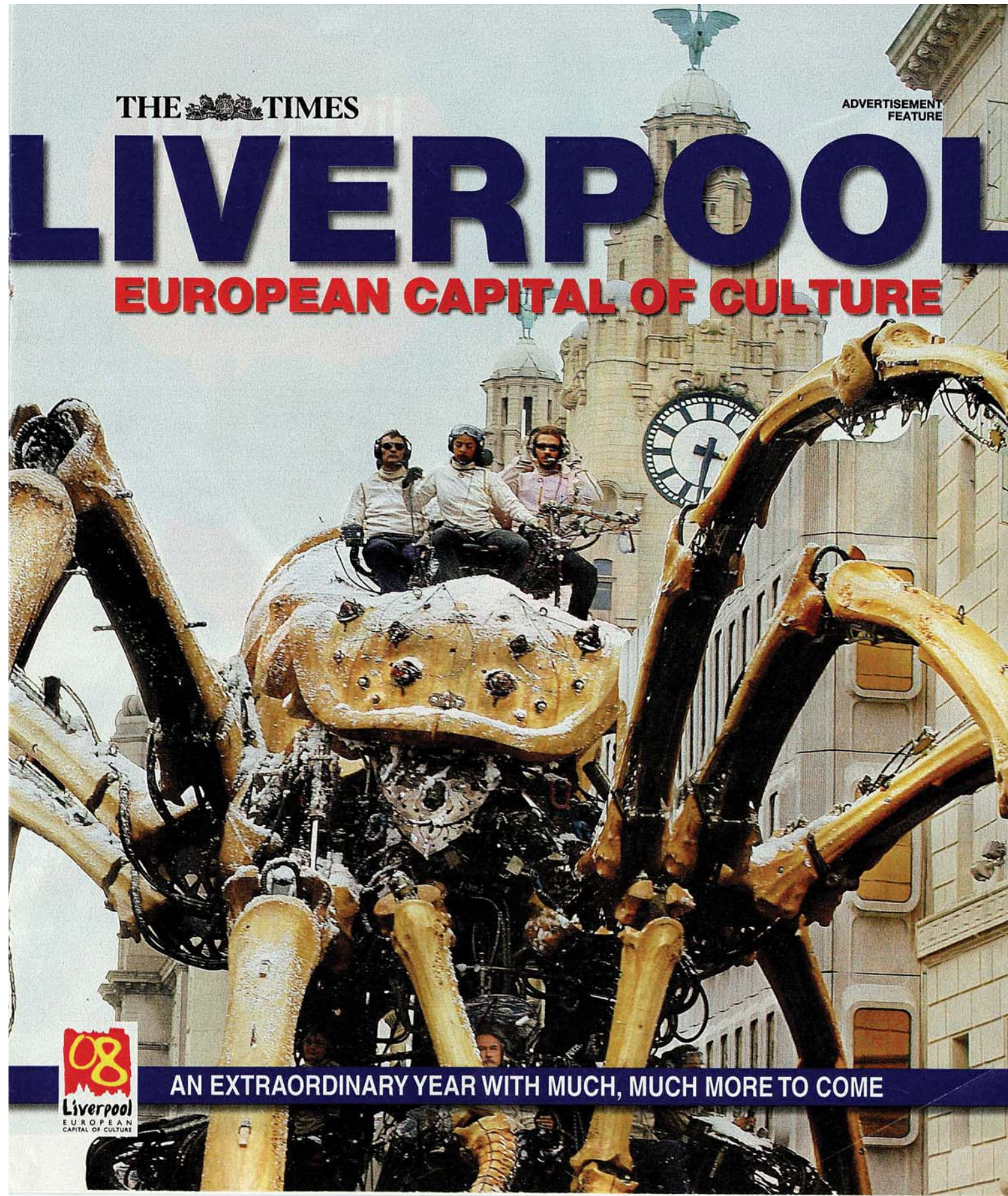


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LIVERPOOL

EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE



AN EXTRAORDINARY YEAR WITH MUCH, MUCH MORE TO COME



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STAGE

ERIC'S: THE MUSICAL

Just as the Cavern Club epitomised the sound of the Swinging Sixties, so Eric's was the place to be in the Eighties, when seminal Liverpool bands, such as the Teardrop Explodes, Echo and the Bunnymen, Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark and Frankie Goes to Hollywood, frequently graced the club as well as the Top 20.

Previously a punk club that hosted gigs by the Clash, the Ramones and the Sex Pistols, Eric's became a hotbed of creativity for young Liverpoolian music lovers inspired by their punk idols. Liverpool writer Mark Davies Markham, who penned the musical *Taboo* with Boy George, has crafted a new play inspired by Eric's although, as he says, "This is a musical drama, not a documentary – it's pure, unadulterated theatre."

The story follows one man's fight for survival as he draws on the defiant spirit of Eric's: do it yourself, and do it your way. *Until October 11 at the Liverpool Everyman*

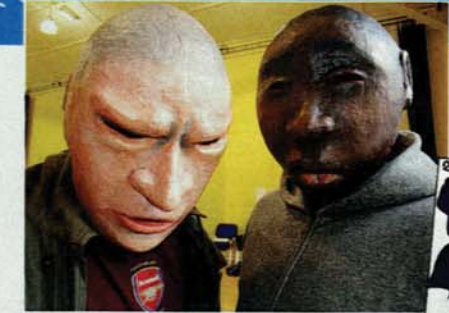


Holly Johnson of Frankie Goes to Hollywood, one of the faces of Eric's club and part of *The Beat Goes On* exhibition at the World Museum Liverpool until November 2009

BABUL AND THE BLUE BEAR

New Liverpool-based theatre company, 20 Stories High's latest production is *Babul and the Blue Bear*. It blends the worlds of hip-hop, masks, puppetry and street theatre (above) in a dynamic, anarchic comment on cultural identity, divided loyalties, racial tension and a sense of belonging.

The company worked with local young people to authentically recreate their narrative and



musical influences. Writer and director Keith Saha then used these to create tales that capture the imaginations of a younger audience not accustomed to theatre.

Babul plays across Liverpool this autumn: Valley Community Theatre, September 30 & October 1; Liverpool Hope University, October 9; Liverpool SPACE, Bootle, October 10 & 11; Liverpool Unity Theatre, October 15 & 16.

KING LEAR

Pete Postlethwaite returns to the theatre where he learned his trade to play King Lear in a new production by Rupert Goold, whose recent Chichester Theatre production of *Macbeth* with Patrick Stewart was a resounding success.

Postlethwaite has described the Everyman Theatre as one of the most exciting spaces in the world, while adding that the prospect of *Lear* is "terrifying and exciting at the same time". Prepare to be impressed.

Liverpool Everyman Theatre, October 30-November 29



DON'T MISS

• *The Quiet Little Englishman*, premiere of a play about George Groves, Liverpool boy behind the first Talkies. October 15-19 and 22-26, tickets from Unity Theatre. • *When We Dead Awaken*, Ibsen's dramatic work, about an ageing sculptor who has lost interest in the world and his journey to reconciliation. Unity Theatre, October 23-November 1. • *Romanian Connections*, two bold productions by the Radu Stanca National Theatre of Sibiu, Romania: *Waiting for Godot* and *The Ball*, at the Contemporary Urban Centre, November 18-20.

YOUR SAY

What are you looking forward to?
STEVE DICKSON
Finance assistant at the Everyman Playhouse

At the end of October, the Unity Theatre is doing a production of *When We Dead Awaken*, Ibsen's last play. It's not often performed, and I've never seen it, so it should be really interesting