

30 January 2008

SIR PETER HALL, TONY BENN AND HELENA KENNEDY JOIN DANIEL BARENBOIM FOR *ARTIST AS LEADER* TALK AT THE ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL Sunday 3 February, 6pm, Southbank Centre

Eminent figures from the artistic and political worlds, **Sir Peter Hall** and **Tony Benn** will join **Daniel Barenboim** on the stage of the Royal Festival Hall, on Sunday 3 February, to discuss the ways in which artists lead and affect social change. The discussion will be chaired by **Baroness Helena Kennedy QC**, one of Britain's leading lawyers and champion of social justice, and introduced by Southbank Centre Artistic Director, **Jude Kelly**.

The talk forms part of Southbank Centre's *Artist as Leader* series, examining the artist's place in contemporary society. Barenboim is the first artist in this series, taking part in three talks alongside his performances of the complete Beethoven Piano Sonata at the Royal Festival Hall, which began on 28 January.

In recent years Barenboim has become increasingly involved in looking at how the arts can engage with politics and help contribute to improvements in society. His work with the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, which has Palestinian and Israeli players, performing and working together, caused *The Guardian* to describe him as "a kind of one-man Middle East peace process".

Barenboim will be in conversation with Jude Kelly on 2 February and will conclude the *Artist as Leader* sessions with Kelly on 8 February.

For further information please contact Kenny Morrison or Jenny Wegg in Southbank Centre press office on 020 7921 0962 or via email at kenny.morrison@southbankcentre.co.uk / jenny.wegg@southbankcentre.co.uk

Saturday 2 February, 5pm

Daniel Barenboim in conversation with Jude Kelly

Tickets: £12

Sunday 3 February, 6pm

Daniel Barenboim, Sir Peter Hall, Tony Benn and Helena Kennedy in discussion.

Tickets: £12

Friday 8 February, 7.30pm

Daniel Barenboim in conversation with Jude Kelly

Tickets: £12

Ticket Office: 0871 663 2500
www.southbankcentre.co.uk

Notes to Editors:

Southbank Centre manages the Royal Festival Hall, The Hayward, Queen Elizabeth Hall and Purcell Room, as well as the Saison Poetry Library, the Arts Council Collection and Hayward Touring Exhibitions on behalf of Arts Council England. It attracts more than 3 million visits annually. The Royal Festival Hall reopened in June 2007 following the £115 million refurbishment of the Hall and redevelopment of the surrounding area and facilities.

Sir Peter Hall

Sir Peter Hall founded the Royal Shakespeare Company in 1960 and served as its Artistic Director for nine years. He was director of the [Royal National Theatre](#) from 1973 to 1988 and was also a member of the [Arts Council of Great Britain](#). He resigned in protest from both roles in protest over cuts in public funding.

Tony Benn

Tony Benn is one of Britain's best-known politicians. He was first elected to parliament in 1950 at the age of 25 and stepped down in 2001 to "spend more time on politics." In his long political career he was a vocal supporter of many contentious issues such as the reunification of Ireland and the 1984-85 miners' strike. Recently he has become a leading figure of the British opposition to the war in Iraq.

Baroness Helena Kennedy of the Shaws QC

Helena Kennedy is a Labour peer and a practising barrister specialising in criminal and human rights law. She has been involved in a large number of prominent cases and her skills as an advocate and social reformer have taken her into many different fields of activity. Awarded a life peerage in 1997, she participates in the House of Lords on issues concerned with human rights, civil liberties, social justice, women's rights and culture.