

**Press Release**  
**August 2011**

**‘Korea Calling’**  
**A Free Outdoor Event for all the Family**



**Sat 10 Sept and Sun 11 Sept 2011**

**The Mayor's Thames Festival**  
**Next to the Oxo Tower, London**  
**Entrance: free**

‘Korea Calling’ is delighted to introduce the crème de la crème of contemporary Korean culture at the 2011 Mayor’s Thames Festival.

We have an exciting programme of hand selected performances and film all of which is complimented by the tantalising delights of Korean cuisine. There’s even a chance to party at our exclusive K-Pop Night on the Saturday.

This all day event also includes a whole host of activities for children of all ages.

On the **10 and 11 September 2011**, ‘Korea Calling’ brings together a programme of theatre, comedy,

film and music from some of Korea’s most talented performers. We are also pleased to welcome Korea’s premier Taekwondo display team from the HQ of this martial art, the Kukkiwon Taekwondo Demonstration Team. Each event is also accompanied by a free workshop where you can learn more about the performers and take part.

**What’s on at ‘Korea Calling’ at The Mayor’s Thames Festival 2011**

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2011**

- 12pm Kukkiwon Taekwondo Team
- 1:30pm Sookmyung Gayageum Orchestra
- 2:30pm Perfordian Factory: Babbling Comedy
- 4pm Moby Duck Theatre: Bong Soon- A Windy Tale
- 5:30pm Kukkiwon Taekwondo Team
- 6:30pm K-Pop Night at Thames Festival
- 8pm Silent film with live accompaniment: Crossroads of Youth

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2011**

- 12 pm Kukkiwon Taekwondo Team
- 1:30pm Sookmyung Gayageum Orchestra
- 2:30pm Perfordian Factory: Babbling Comedy
- 4pm Moby Duck Theatre: Bong Soon- A Windy Tale
- 5:30pm Kukkiwon Taekwondo Team
- 6:30pm Sookmyung Gayageum Orchestra

**Accompanying Workshops after each Performance**



**For queries or to request images.**

Miss Kyunghee Choi  
 5BW  
 kyunghee.choi@kccuk.org.uk

**Address:**

The Korean Cultural Centre, Grand Buildings, 1–3 Strand, London WC2N

Tel. 020 7004 2603 [www.kccuk.org.uk](http://www.kccuk.org.uk)

### Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September

- 1pm Taekwondo Workshop
- 2:30pm Traditional Korean instrument experience
- 3:30pm Juggling Workshop
- 5pm Story Making Workshops
- 6:30pm Taekwondo Workshop

### Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September

- 1pm Taekwondo Workshop
- 2:30pm Traditional Korean instrument experience
- 3:30pm Juggling Workshop
- 5pm Story Making Workshops
- 6:30pm Taekwondo Workshop
- 7:30pm Traditional Korean instrument experience



## Korea Calling: the Performers

### The Kukkiwon Taekwondo Demonstration Team



Promoting what is arguably Korea's **best known cultural export** will be the 'Kukkiwon Taekwondo Team.'

Established in **1974**, the team functions as a diplomatic corps that is committed to globalizing Taekwondo culture. Taekwondo students and instructors with at least 5<sup>th</sup> Dan competency make up the **team of 70**, who take part in global demonstration tours as well as perform regular demonstrations to international visitors in Korea. The 'Kukkiwon Taekwondo Team' will display just how impressive the art of Taekwondo is, as a sport, a means of self defence and a means of self discipline. Taekwondo workshops will also be provided by the team throughout the weekend.

### The Sookmyung Gayageum Orchestra plus Special Guest



The 'Sookmyung Gayageum Orchestra' will perform their blend of **traditional Korean music with contemporary, cross-cultural twists** at *Korea Calling* and will bring our Festival to a close on Sunday 11th.

The internationally acclaimed orchestra is comprised of up to **24 Gayageums**; Korea's most revered traditional instrument, and is accompanied by various Korean and Western percussion instruments.

The ensemble boasts an unconventional yet inspirational repertoire, which transcends time and cultures. It includes interpretations of Cheongak songs favoured by Korea's Joseon Dynasty literati, contemporary Korean compositions, and arrangements of Russian, South American and Japanese folk songs. **The West is represented in re-workings of both Classical and Beatles compositions.**

In 2006, the 'Sookmyung Gayageum Orchestra' took their innovative spirit to the next level by taking part in an unprecedented collaboration with a B-Boy dance troupe. **This concert will include performances by a B-Boy, who will display his impressive popping techniques throughout.** 'Sookmyung Gayageum Orchestra' will provide traditional Korean instrument experience workshops for the duration of the festival.

**For queries or to request images.**

Miss Kyunghye Choi  
kyunghye.choi@kccuk.org.uk

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Tel. 020 7004 2603 www.kccuk.org.uk

### Perfordian Factory: Babbling Comedy

'Perfordian Factory' have been exploring the ingenious performance genre of **non-verbal comedy** since **2007**, which uses a combination of mime, magic, clowning and music.

They will be visiting London after performing at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival for the second consecutive year, and as part of a world tour encompassing Japan, China, Europe and the UK. After enjoying **5 star reviews** at this year's Edinburgh Fringe Festival, their new show, *Babbling Comedy*, promises to delight UK audiences once again with their madcap style of performance.



**Babbling Comedy 2**

- Perfordian Factory -  
[www.perfordian.com](http://www.perfordian.com)

### Moby Duck Theatre: Bong Soon- A Windy Tale



In a unique collaboration, the UK based 'Moby Duck' theatre group have teamed up with Korea's popular children's theatre group, 'Sadari Theatre,' to produce their own version of **one of Korea's best loved children's stories**, 'Bong Soon: A Windy Tale.'

**Combining storytelling, live music and puppetry** with exuberant humour, the English language version has already played **to sold-out houses** in Seoul. The English language version of this Korean tale promises to be just as popular.

### Korea Calling's K-Pop Night!

One of the highlights of our programme is our **K-Pop Night** which will take place on **Saturday at 6:30pm**. In a celebration of the rise of Korean pop music, the KCCUK's regular K-Pop Night will hit our open air stage at the Thames Festival, offering guests the chance to **dance the night away to the hottest K-Pop tracks** spun by a live DJ.

Our K-Pop nights began in **February 2011** and have been extremely popular with UK K-Pop fans ever since, seeing **600 people** through the doors each night. If you haven't already been to one of our super fun events, now's your chance to get involved. For the duration of the weekend, a **K-Pop marquee** will give visitors the chance to find out more about the music craze that's currently sweeping the globe. We will also have an exclusive **Noraebang (Singing Room) Experience** for those brave enough to sing their favourite K-Pop tracks over the mic with a friend.



### Silent film with live accompaniment: Crossroads of Youth

'Crossroads of Youth,' (1934) by director Ahn Jong-hwa is the **oldest Korean film in existence**, as well as one of two of the country's surviving silent films. This recently rediscovered masterwork tells the story of characters whose paths intertwine against the backdrop of Seoul in a tragic comment on the modernisation of Korea.

The 'Korea Calling' screening of 'Crossroads of Youth' will bring to life a bygone era of early Korean cinema by means of **live accompaniment**. In a UK first, a **'byunsa'** will provide narration alongside live musical performances. Providing an unabashed snapshot of a rapidly modernizing Korea as originally experienced by Korean cinema-goers in the 1930's, this film guarantees to both fascinate and captivate audiences

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## Discover more about Korea and Korean food at 'Korea Calling'

Tantalising treats in both traditional and contemporary fusion form will be on offer. Legendary **chef Sook-Ja Yoon**, founder of the Institute of Traditional Korean Food will be joining us all the way from Korea. Yoon is dedicated to preserving culinary traditions and promoting the rustic yet delicately balanced flavours of her native country. Yoon's reputation as an authority on Korean cuisine has led to her appearance at numerous international food events, including the Korean Food Festival at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City, our very own Mayor's Thames Festival in 2008 and 2009 and food exhibitions in Paris, Tokyo and Germany. It's with great pleasure that we welcome one of Korea's champion culinary artists back to The Thames Festival in 2011 where she will be dishing up samples of Korea's finest fare.

Representing the **growing global trend for Korean fusion food** will be London's very own **Kimchi Cult**. Kimchi Cult blend traditional hot, sweet, salty and sour Korean flavours with popular western-style fast-food such as burgers, sandwiches, hot dogs and French fries in a combination that's proving a hit with the UK public and Koreans alike. Kimchi Cult will be serving their **kimchi burgers** exclusively for the duration of the weekend.

There will also be opportunities to find out more about Korea's premier holiday destination **Jeju Island**, the city of **Sancheong**; host of the World Traditional Medecine Expo 2013, and the port city of **Yeosu**; the site of the marine focussed Expo 2012 Yeosu Korea. The **Korea Tourism Organisation** and **Korea Creative Content Agency** will also be on hand to answer any queries you may have.

### Further Family Events at the KCC during the Festival Weekend

Meanwhile, there will be family events for children at the Korean Cultural Centre UK (KCC) during the Thames Festival **Sat 10-11 Sept. 11.00 -17.00**. Events will include screening popular animation, storytelling for children, board games, children's craft workshops, as well as a chance to sample some delicious Korean food.



### NOTES TO EDITORS

1. For more information on the free outdoor family event '**Korea Calling**' next to the Oxo Tower on **10/11 September** and the accompanying family days at the KCCUK, please contact [info@kccuk.org.uk](mailto:info@kccuk.org.uk) or phone 020 7004 2600.
2. **The Mayor's Thames Festival** is London's largest free festival, a spectacular two-day celebration of London and the River Thames, attracting over 800,000 people every September. The festival transforms spaces on and around the River Thames with a vibrant mix of music, dance, feasting, carnival, river races, art installations and street performances. It takes place every September, with a weekend of outdoor events on the River from the London Eye to Tower Bridge and beyond. Through the Festival's year round learning and participation programme it works with over 300 schools and community groups across London, engaging 10,000 young people. The Thames Festival Trust is a not-for-profit charitable trust with an independent board of trustees. The Mayor's Thames Festival 2011 takes place on 10 and 11 September. For more information, please visit [www.thamesfestival.org](http://www.thamesfestival.org)

For more information on the Mayor's Thames Festival River Commission project Reclaimed by The Thames visit:

[www.thamesfestival.org/learning\\_and\\_participation](http://www.thamesfestival.org/learning_and_participation)

3. **The Korean Cultural Centre UK**  
The Korean Cultural Centre UK (KCCUK) was opened by the Korean Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism in January 2008 under the aegis of the London Embassy of the Republic of Korea. The role of the KCCUK is to further enhance friendship, amity and understanding between Korea and the UK through cultural and educational activities.

From the KCCUK's central London location near Trafalgar Square, its dedicated cultural team work to further develop cultural projects, introduce new opportunities to expand their Korean events programme in the UK, and encourage cultural exchange. Facilities at the centre include a gallery, small theatre, lecture room, a multimedia

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centre and library.

Opening Times:  
Mon-Fri: 10am-6pm  
Sat. 11am-5pm  
Closed Sunday

[www.kccuk.org.uk](http://www.kccuk.org.uk)

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/kccuk/>

Entry to the Korean Cultural Centre is free.  
The Korean Cultural Centre UK is fully accessible.

**ENDS**

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