



## **Artichoke presents**

### **Paul St George: THE TELECTROSCOPE**

**London and New York  
22 May – 15 June 2008**

#### **Transatlantic engineering project nears completion**

A long-forgotten tunnel connecting London and New York is due to open this summer.

Artist and inventor Paul St George has announced his plans to complete the astonishingly ambitious engineering project started by his great grandfather, Alexander Stanhope St George, more than a century ago.

Using maps and drawings discovered in family archives, Mr. St George has tracked down the location of the original excavation and is now finishing the drilling project that will complete a tunnel connecting London to New York.

The tunnel is only part of the story, however. Once it is completed, each end will be fitted with a Telectroscope – an extraordinary optical device also invented by his ancestor, designed to magnify the view through the tunnel thus allowing people on one side of the Atlantic to see those people on the other side.

“Several people throughout the 1890s claimed to have invented the Telectroscope, but nobody ever built one,” says Paul St George. “I can now prove that my great grandfather was the only person with a workable plan – and finally I am in a position to turn that plan into a reality. Alexander Stanhope St George was not a dreamer, but an engineer of real genius with a practical and achievable vision.”

This project chimes perfectly with St George’s own practice as an artist. Paul is fascinated by the overlapping territory that exists between illusion and reality; between optical effect and perception. He delights in confusing and mesmerizing his audience.

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Producers Artichoke are best known as the team who brought *The Sultan's Elephant* to London in May 2006. The biggest piece of free theatre ever mounted in the UK, *The Sultan's Elephant* returned the streets to the people and according to the BBC attracted audiences of over a million people in pursuit of a magical time-travelling Elephant and his companions.

Artichoke's Helen Marriage and Nicky Webb described St George's mission to bring his great grandfather's dream to light as "an extraordinary piece of visionary determination – and a wonderful opportunity for members of the public to communicate live with people on the other side of the world in an entirely new way."

In London the Telectroscope will appear on the South Bank in the shadow of Tower Bridge whilst the other end will appear at the foot of the Brooklyn Bridge on the Brooklyn side of the East River. Precise locations will be revealed in due course.

This unique project is sponsored by **Tiscali UK**. Neal McCleave, Managing Director of Media Services at Tiscali says: "We are delighted to support Artichoke and Paul St George in this miraculous feat of silent communication. Tiscali strives to create a sense of adventure in the world of communications, and this project seemed to us to perfectly symbolise that same sense of adventure, being rooted in an age when engineering and technology were in their infancy."

The artist will be creating two limited edition Minumental Telectroscopes especially for this event. Each is individually cast in brass and contains a Stanhope Peep. The Stanhope enables the viewer to peep through a small hole and see a large image of either Tower Bridge or Brooklyn Bridge. The beautifully packaged Minumental Telectroscope, each with a signed and numbered certificate of authenticity, will be available from [www.tiscali.co.uk/telectroscope](http://www.tiscali.co.uk/telectroscope).

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