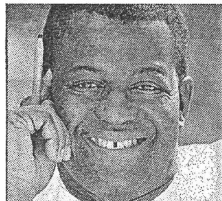


# Daily Mail

The Daily Mail UK newspaper, 14 July 2000.



## Baz Bamigboye

### Judi goes with the flow for an opera coup

**J**UDI DENCH will make her Royal Opera House debut — for one night only — on a barge on the Thames. The Oscar-winning actress, who despite ill-informed reports to the contrary will return as M in the next James Bond movie, which shoots next year, won't be singing (though she can put a song across!).

She has been invited to narrate the new work called *Birtheright*, which is the first episode of *Fleeting Opera* by Max Couper and his collaborators Trevor Wishart, Tom Sapsford and Sasha Kingston.

Ms Dench, who was seen sailing on a royal barge on the Thames in *Shakespeare In Love*, said she accepted the invitation (a major coup for the Opera House) because

she found the offer 'irresistible', and pointed out that the last time any serious work was created and performed for the river was Handel's *Water Music* in 1717.

'This draws attention to the Thames in a spirited way,' she declared.

Joining Judi on the barge will be dancer Deborah Bull, with three musicians and a trio of singers.

Ms Dench will perform twice on July 27: first opposite the Houses of Parliament, so MPs can view the show before summer recess, and then later that same evening opposite the Albert Embankment. The productions are free for the public.

There will also be a production on July 26 at Battersea park but, alas, Judi will not be performing that night.

The actress has just completed work on the film *Chocolat* with Johnny Depp. 'I adored working with him,' she said girlishly.

**J**UDI DENCH will make her Royal Opera House debut — for one night only — on a barge on the Thames. The Oscar-winning actress, who despite ill-informed reports to the contrary will return as M in the next James Bond movie, which shoots next year, won't be singing (though she can put a song across!).

She has been invited to narrate the new work called *Birtheright*, which is the first episode of *Fleeting Opera* by Max Couper and his collaborators Trevor Wishart, Tom Sapsford and Sasha Kingston.

Ms Dench, who was seen sailing on a royal barge on the Thames in *Shakespeare In Love*, said she accepted the invitation (a major coup for the Opera House) because

she found the offer 'irresistible', and pointed out that the last time any serious work was created and performed for the river was Handel's *Water Music* in 1717.

'This draws attention to the Thames in a spirited way,' she declared.

Joining Judi on the barge will be dancer Deborah Bull, with three musicians and a trio of singers.

Ms Dench will perform twice on July 27: first opposite the Houses of Parliament, so MPs can view the show before summer recess, and then later that same evening opposite the Albert Embankment. The productions are free for the public.

There will also be a production on July 26 at Battersea park but, alas, Judi will not be performing that night.

The actress has just completed work on the film *Chocolat* with Johnny Depp. 'I adored working with him,' she said girlishly.