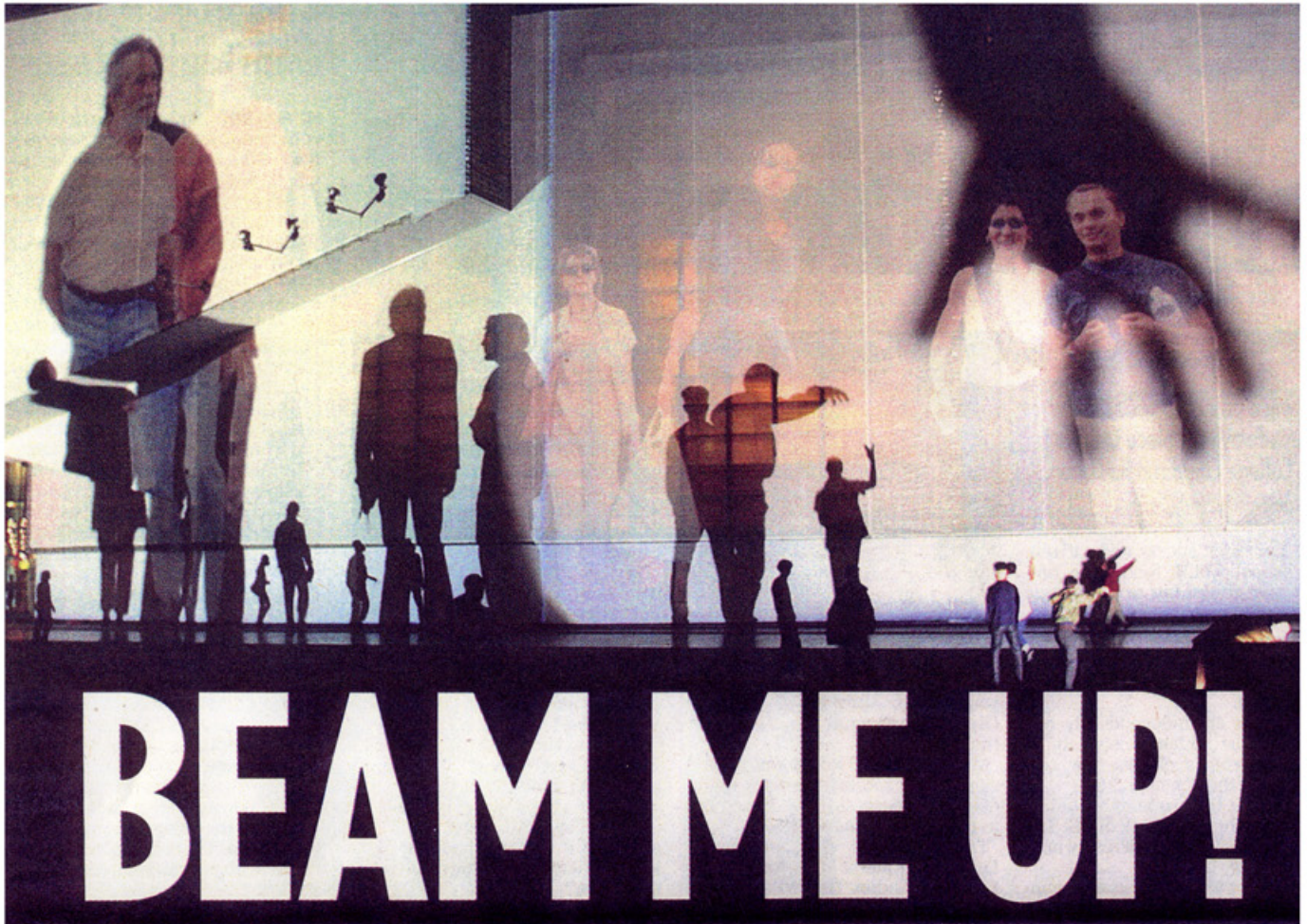




LIGHT FANTASTIC: RENOWNED ARTIST SETS SHINING EXAMPLE



GIVE HIM A BIG HAND: A projection by Rafael Lozano-Hemmer on to a building in Holland. A similar project will take place in Leicester

by **LIZ HAWLEY**

A world-renowned artist who turns buildings and streets into works of art by beaming dramatic images on to them is heading to Leicester for his next major project.

Bafta award-winner Rafael Lozano-Hemmer is coming to the city to find inspiration for his latest work, which will include a series of video installations.

Arts bosses have confirmed that his work will feature in an exhibition later this year or early next.

The fine details of the exhibition, such as the location, are being kept under wraps.

David Rose, from project manager ArtReach, said: "The only thing we can say is that it will almost certainly be in a pedestrian area.

"It will be in quite a large area and it will cover buildings and the floor.

"It is now at the stage of research and development and we have a team of people looking into the site."

Backers hope the visual display



SEEING THE LIGHT: Bafta award-winner Rafael Lozano-Hemmer

will put the city on the map for hosting globally significant visual arts work. Full details of the project will be unveiled on June 29, when Rafael comes to Leicester for the official launch.

The 37-year-old, from Mexico, said:

"I am delighted to have been chosen to work in the region.

"There is clearly a real commitment to the visual arts here and I am honoured to present a project designed to engage people and transform public space."

As well as working in Leicester, Rafael has also been hired to transform the city centres of Derby, Lincoln, Northampton and Nottingham.

It is part of a £1 million East Midlands Development Agency Cultural Quarters initiative to highlight and celebrate developments in each of the cities' arts sectors.

Rafael has a global reputation and has had work shown in more than 25 countries.

He has also carried out major international commissions.

Councillor Roger Blackmore, leader of Leicester City Council, said: "This unique initiative should help highlight the exciting nature of investment in regenerating Leicester's city centre, in particular the cultural quarter."

City centre manager David Best said: "It is a fantastic idea and we are quite excited about it.

"We are extremely pleased that they want to come to Leicester and show it to the public.

"I am a great believer in public art in all forms.

"I wish we were able to do far more."