

**OPENING CEREMONY OF  
THE GAMES OF THE XXX OLYMPIAD**

London, 27 July 2012

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**Your Majesty,  
Your Majesties,  
Your Royal Highnesses,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen**

**In just a few moments, the Olympic Games will officially return to London for the third time, setting an unmatched record for hosting the Games that spans more than a century.**

**Thank you, London, for welcoming the world to this diverse, vibrant, cosmopolitan city yet again!**

**It has taken a lot of hard work by many people to get us to this point.**

**I want to thank the entire team at the London Organising Committee - superbly led by Lord Coe - for their excellent and hard work.**

**I also want to thank all the public authorities who have helped ensure that these Games will leave a lasting positive legacy long after the Closing Ceremony.**

**And, of course, we are all grateful to the thousands of dedicated volunteers who are being so generous with their time, their energy and their welcoming smiles.**

**For the first time in Olympic history all the participating teams will include female athletes. This is a major boost for gender equality.**

**In a sense, the Olympic Games are coming home tonight.**

**This great, sports-loving country is widely recognised as the birthplace of modern sport.**

**It was here that the concepts of sportsmanship and fair play were first codified into clear rules and regulations.**

**It was here that sport was included as an educational tool in the school curriculum.**

**The British approach to sport had a profound influence on Pierre de Coubertin, our founder, as he developed the framework for the modern Olympic Movement at the close of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.**

**The values that inspired de Coubertin will come to life over the next 17 days as the world's best athletes compete in a spirit of friendship, respect and fair play.**

**I congratulate all of the athletes who have earned a place at these Games.**

**And to the athletes, I offer this thought: Your talent, your dedication and commitment brought you here.**

**Now you have a chance to become true Olympians.**

**That honour is determined not by whether you win, but by how you compete.**

**Character counts far more than medals.**

**Reject doping. Respect your opponents. Remember that you are all role models. If you do that, you will inspire a generation.**

**Ces Jeux sont porteurs de beaucoup d'espoirs.**

**Espoir d'entente et de paix entre les 204 Comités Nationaux Olympiques.**

**Espoir de voir les jeunes générations s'inspirer des valeurs du sport.**

**Espoir que ces Jeux puissent contribuer au développement durable.**

**Chers athlètes, faites-nous rêver ! Make us dream !**

**I now have the honour to ask Her Majesty the Queen to open the Games of the XXX Olympiad.**