
Press Release

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Winners of the WOW Women in Creative Industries Awards announced

Reni Eddo-Lodge, Liv Little, Vicky Featherstone, Lubaina Himid and Mona Hammond are among the winners of Southbank Centre's Women in Creative Industries Awards, announced today at a ceremony at the arts centre's Royal Festival Hall.

Hosted by Artistic Director and *WOW* founder **Jude Kelly CBE** as part of the **Women in Creative Industries Day**, to launch the eighth *WOW - Women of the World* festival, supported by Bloomberg, awards presenters included **Mary Portas, Bobby Baker, Amy Lamé, Chi-chi Nwanoku, John McGrath, Adjoa Andoh, Liz Carr, Nikesh Shukla** and **Sarah Crompton**.

WOW Women in Creative Industries 2018 Award Winners:

Bold Moves Award (for a woman who has taken daring, bold and ambitious actions, either personally or in their work, which have positively impacted creative form and forged new ways of working):

- **WINNER:** Author and journalist **Reni Eddo-Lodge** for her debut book, *Why I'm No Longer Talking To White People About Race*, a nuanced and balanced conversation around race, which shifted the discourse towards the voices of people of colour.

Fighting the Good Fight (in recognition of a woman who has demonstrated great tenacity and on-going commitment to excellence within the creative industries):

- **WINNER:** **Lois Weaver**, artist, activist, writer and director, for four decades of commitment to work engaging the widest possible public in feminism and human rights through performance

Inspiring Change Award (recognising the actions of women who have been instrumental in effecting positive social change and who have given a platform to important stories and unheard voices through their work):

- **WINNER:** **Cilla Baynes**, founder of Community Arts North West, for her development of the Exodus Greater Manchester Refugee Arts Programme, one of the most significant arts programmes that is working with refugees.

Gender Equality Champion Award (for a person who has been instrumental in championing equality for women within the creative industries, and whose actions have contributed to improving gender equality):

- **WINNER: Vicky Featherstone** for her urgent call to action to the theatre-world in the wake of #MeToo with her initiative No Grey Area, that both shed light on sexual misconduct in the UK theatre industry and suggested a way forward for stopping it.

Breaking New Ground Award (for a woman who is innovating new technologies and digital projects, or breaking new ground with cutting edge thinking within their field):

- **WINNER: Liv Little**, for founding Gal-Dem: a magazine (online and in print) and creative collective of women and non-binary people of colour to open up their take on the world to a wider audience.

Outstanding Achievement Award 2016-17 (awarded to the creative powerhouses and bright sparks who have reshaped the arts and inspired peers with visionary work and an outstanding creative contribution in the last year):

- **WINNER: Lubaina Himid**, for the beauty and power of her 2017 exhibition *Navigation Charts* at Spike Island and for her 2017 Turner Prize-winning exhibition, *The Place is Here*. Both revealed the way that her consistent commitment to making art for black women has opened up a conversation with a much wider community.

The Chairs' Award

- **Phyllida Lloyd** and her team at the Donmar theatre for *Shakespeare Trilogy*, a transatlantic project presenting an all-female cast in three productions set in a women's prison which exploded once and for all the notion that Shakespeare has to be played by men.

Lifetime Achievement Awards

- **Lennie Goodings**, for living out the definition of the name of the publishing company she founded - Virago (a heroic, war-like woman), and championing women writers' voices around the world
- **Shobana Jeyasingh**, British choreographer and founder of Shobana Jeyasingh Dance company, for more than 30 years of creating dynamic, fearless and enigmatic dance, and taking the artform to new audiences globally
- **Mona Hammond**, for her long and distinguished theatre career, and for championing black British actors with her theatre company Talawa Theatre

View the full list of nominees [here](#).

Set up in 2016 by Jude Kelly CBE, Artistic Director, Southbank Centre, and founder of *WOW - Women of the World*, the WOW Women in Creative Industries Awards recognise significant achievements made by women in the arts, tech, music, film, games, media, fashion and advertising, and celebrate the women and men progressing equality in the arts and creative industries. They were the first ever cross-sector awards to honour women and genderqueer or non-binary people leading the way in the creative industries.

This year's judging panel included Tate Director **Maria Balshaw CBE**; **Anne-Marie Curtis**, Editor-in-Chief of ELLE Magazine; **Martin Green**, CEO & Director, Hull City of Culture 2017; **Amy Lamé**, London's first Night Czar and co-founder of Duckie; **John McGrath**, CEO & Artistic Director of Manchester International Festival; **Dame Julia Peyton-Jones DBE**, Senior Global Director of Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac; **Jenny Sealey MBE**, CEO & Artistic Director of Graeae; **Nikesh Shukla**, author, and

editor of *The Good Immigrant*; and **Deborah Williams**, CEO at Creative Diversity Network, convened by **Jude Kelly** and arts editor, broadcaster and critic, **Sarah Crompton**.

Shobana Jeyasingh, British choreographer and founder of Shobana Jeyasingh Dance, said: *"It is an honour and an immense privilege to be the recipient of a WOW Lifetime Achievement Award. Realising creative potential is always collaborative by nature and it is brilliant to celebrate it with, and among, extraordinary women. It is particularly exciting to receive the award now as we become one of Southbank Centre's associate companies. I look forward to achieving and realising even more through this exciting collaboration with one of London's landmark venues."*

As part of the Women in Creative Industries Day, programmed in partnership with the Creative Industries Federation, Vicky Featherstone, Artistic Director of Royal Court Theatre, spoke about her initiative No Grey Area, which aimed to shine a light on the systemic nature of sexual harassment in the theatre industry. Other speakers included Juno Dawson, Sabrina Mahfouz, Cassa Pancho MBE, Tea Uglow, Harriet Vine, Francesca Martinez and Deborah Williams, with keynotes from Cressida Pollock, CEO of English National Opera, and Vanessa Kingori MBE, the youngest and first female publisher of British GQ, the first black publisher in Condé Nast UK history and the new UK Vogue publisher.

In the 100th anniversary year since the first British women won the right to vote, Southbank Centre's eighth *WOW - Women of the World* festival celebrates the seismic changes brought about by women and men historically, and brings together the voices of women and girls of all ages to transform the future for gender equality and highlight solutions to modern day challenges. This year's festival sees a programme of more than 200 talks and debates, concerts, performances and workshops from 7-11 March 2018.

For the complete *WOW London 2018* programme, visit southbankcentre.co.uk/wow

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See the full *WOW London 2018* press release [here](#).

NOTES TO EDITORS

Southbank Centre is the UK's largest arts centre, occupying a 17 acre site that sits in the midst of London's most vibrant cultural quarter on the South Bank of the Thames. The site has an extraordinary creative and architectural history stretching back to the 1951 Festival of Britain. Southbank Centre is home to the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and Hayward Gallery as well as The National Poetry Library and the Arts Council Collection. For further information please visit www.southbankcentre.co.uk.

In 2017 Southbank Centre was recognised for its leadership on workplace gender equality in **The Times Top 50 Employers for Women list**, published in partnership with Business in the Community, the Prince's Responsible Business Network. The list acknowledges UK employers making gender equality a key part of their business strategy, with consistent commitment to creating inclusive workplace cultures and progressing women in the workplace that covers their entire organisation at all levels

In January 2018, **Jude Kelly** announced that she will be leaving her role as Artistic Director, Southbank Centre, in May 2018, to further globally develop *WOW - Women of the World* festival. More details to be announced in due course.

About WOW

Southbank Centre's *WOW – Women of the World* festival is a global festival movement launched by Jude Kelly

CBE in London in 2010, followed by the first festival in March 2011, that celebrates women and girls and looks at the obstacles that stop them from achieving their potential. To date, *WOW* has reached over 1.5 million people worldwide and this number is growing year on year.

Each festival across the world - made up of talks, debates, music, activism, mentoring, pop ups and performance - celebrates women and girls, takes a frank look at what prevents them from achieving their potential, and raises awareness globally of the issues they face and possible solutions. It reaches girls and women, boys and men from a broad range of social backgrounds and supplies a completely different sense of action and energy than a conventional conference approach. Speakers have included Malala Yousafzai, Christine Lagarde, Angela Davis, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Salma Hayek, Annie Lennox, Gordon Brown, Julie Walters, Patrick Stewart and many more including hundreds of women and men who don't have public profiles but are working everyday to achieve gender equality.

Over 480,000 visited Southbank Centre during *WOW London 2017* and thousands more have come to *WOWs* across the world including *WOW Karachi*, *WOW Apollo* in New York, *WOW Kathmandu*, *WOW Ake* in Nigeria, *WOW Baltimore*, *WOW Bradford*, *WOW Brisbane*, *WOW Derry-Londonderry*, *WOW Katherine* and more. Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cornwall has been President of *WOW* since 2015.

The *WOW London 2018* Committee is: Sughra Ahmed, Munroe Bergdorf, Melanie Eusebe, Nadia El Sebai, Ayesha Hazarika, Lucy Litwack, Fatima Manj, Francesca Martinez, Phyll Opoku-Gyimah, Simone Roche, Dr Nicola Rollock and Sarah Sands. The Standing Committee is: Rosie Boycott, Shami Chakrabarti, Baroness Helena Kennedy, Catherine Mayer, Kate Mosse, Frances Osborne, Dame Gail Rebuck, Sandi Toksvig and Gauri Sharma Tripathi.

WOW London 2018 would not be possible without its generous sponsors and supporters - Bloomberg, UBS, American International Group, Inc. (AIG) and the Chartered Insurance Institute.