

SOUTHBANK CENTRE

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For further information please contact: press@southbankcentre.co.uk

August 2026 Listings



Clockwise L-R: *Situation Dance*, Image © Pete Woodhead; *GAIA*, Image © Luke Jerram; *Dog Man: The Musical*, Image © Dav Pilkey.

As part of the Southbank Centre's 75th anniversary celebrations, August embraces the spirit of youth with *Riverside Sessions* (11 Jun – 21 Sep), a series of free events curated in collaboration with young people and community groups. *Riverside Sessions* gives the Southbank Centre over to young people, allowing their voices and ideas for the future to take centre stage during the Southbank Centre's 75th year. August's guest curators include; south-east London based youth collective **Sounds Like Chaos** (1 Aug), culture-driven production house **Hekayyatna** (8 & 9 Aug), grassroots arts movement **Arts Emergency** (22 & 23 Aug) and many more.

Acclaimed visual artist **Luke Jerram's** striking three-dimensional model of earth, *GAIA*, will illuminate the Royal Festival Hall for a weekend of outstanding orchestral music (28 – 30 Aug). Below the awe-inspiring installation the **BBC Concert Orchestra** will

explore heavenly works for strings in *Sounds of the Earth* (28 Aug) and Grammy Award-winning composer **Eric Whitacre** will present his newest electro-choral work, *Eternity in an Hour* with his immaculate choir, the **Eric Whitacre Singers** (29 Aug). On Sunday, the Royal Festival Hall will be open for the public to experience the floating installation (30 Aug). Meanwhile outside, Jerram's public installation *Stepping Out* continues (until 30 Sep), with a rising and falling musical symphony composed by award-winning composer and sound designer **Dan Jones**, activated by footfall on the Royal Festival Hall staircase.

Anish Kapoor's awe-inspiring return to the Hayward Gallery continues (16 Jun – 18 Oct) with a series of events accompanying the exhibition including *Hayward Gallery Lates*, a cross-artform evening of performances and interventions in the Hayward Gallery. Across the exhibition's run, composer **Brian Elias** and celebrated horn player **Ben Goldscheider** present live performances of distinctive new compositions for French horn that have been tailored to specific sculptures in the exhibition (4 Jul, 8 Aug, 12 Sep & 3 Oct).

Also in the Hayward Gallery, Taiwanese artist **Musquiqui Chihying** takes over the free HENI Project Space with works that explore our ambiguous relationship with technology (25 August - 18 October 2026). Showing the breadth of his practice, *A Life of Navigation* will pair early works with new productions, often blurring the lines between reality and the surreal with intriguing effect.

Iconic English musician, composer and DJ, **Chicane**, celebrates 30 years of topping charts around the world with an evening of hits alongside a full orchestra and a live band (22 Aug). The greatest-selling instrumental musician of the modern era, **Kenny G**, returns to the UK for a highly anticipated performance at the Royal Festival Hall (23 Aug).

The Summer literature season continues with readings and discussions from leading authors including; Pulitzer prize winner **Colson Whitehead** (22 Aug), **Colin Grant** (26 Aug) and the International Booker Prize-shortlisted **Mieko Kawakami** (28 Aug).

The Southbank Centre's 75th Anniversary Season is supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies.

EXHIBITIONS

Visual Arts | **Free Programme** | [Quentin Blake: The Southbank Parade](#)

Tue 17 Feb – Sun 8 Nov, 10am – 11pm, Tue – Sun, Site wide. Free. For all ages.

Visual Arts | **Riverside Sessions** | [TONIC FLOW: A Communal Chorus in Colour and Sound](#)

Sun 10 May – Sun 20 Sep, Mandela Walk, Level 2, Royal Festival Hall. Free. For all ages.

Visual Arts | [Luke Jerram: Stepping Out](#)

Tue 16 Jun – Wed 30 Sep 2026, Riverside Terrace, Royal Festival Hall. Free.

Visual Arts | [Anish Kapoor](#)

Tue 16 Jun – Sun 18 Oct, Tue – Fri, 10am – 6pm, Sat, 10am – 8pm, Sun, 10am – 6pm, Closed on Mondays, Hayward Gallery. Tickets from £22.

Visual Arts | [Kulpreet Singh: Indelible Black Marks](#)

Tue 16 Jun – Sun 2 Aug, HENI Project Space, Hayward Gallery. Free.

Riverside Sessions | [Gift to the Future](#)

Wed 1 Jul – Sun 27 Sep, Site-wide. Free. Suitable for all ages.

Riverside Sessions | [London Parks: An Exhibition](#)

Fri 12 Jun – Wed 1 Jul, Riverside Terrace, Royal Festival Hall. Free. For all ages.

Visual Arts | [Musiquiqui Chihying: A Life of Navigation](#)

Tue 25 Aug – Sun 18 Oct, HENI Project Space, Hayward Gallery. Free.

EVENTS

Families & Young People | [REPLAY: A Limitless Recycled Playground](#)

Wed 14 Jan – Sun 5 July, Various Times, Spirit Level, Level 1, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets £7.50 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 6 months – 11 years.

Families & Young People | [REPLAY: Relaxed](#)

Thu 15 Jan – Sat 4 July, Various Times, Spirit Level, Level 1, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets £7.50 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 6 months – 11 years.

Tours | [Southbank Centre Tours](#)

Wed 8 Apr – Sat 26 Sep, Various Times, Across the site (starts at Royal Festival Hall). Tickets from £20 + £3.50 booking fee. For all ages.

National Programme | [Literature & Spoken Word](#) | [A Poet In Every Port](#)

Fri 29 May – Sat 26 Sep, Nationwide. Free. For all ages.

In August the mobile National Poetry Library's national tour will be taking a small break while it prepares to visit: [The Word: National Centre for the Written Word](#) South Shields (Fri 18 – Sat 19 Sept) and [Aspects Festival](#) Bangor, Northern Ireland (Fri 25 – Sat 26 Sept)

Performance & Dance | **Families & Young People** | [Dog Man: The Musical](#)

Wed 29 Jul – Sun 16 Aug, Multiple Times, Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets from £27 + £4 booking fee. For ages 5+.

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Gigs | **Riverside Sessions** | **Free Programme** | [Sounds Like Chaos: Saturday](#)

Sat 1 Aug, 2pm, Riverside Terrace, Level 2. Free. For all ages.

Comedy | [James Acaster](#)

Sat 1 & Sun 2 Aug, 8pm, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £32 + £4 booking fee. For ages 14+.

Gigs | **Riverside Sessions** | **Free Programme** | [Femi Koleoso Presents Situation Dance](#)

Sun 2 Aug, 1pm, Riverside Terrace, Level 2. Free. For all ages.

Gigs | **Riverside Sessions** | **Free Programme** | [Tomorrow's Warriors: Extraordinary Summer Showcase](#)

Sun 2 Aug, 4.30pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer. Free. For all ages.

Visual Arts | [Relaxed Hours: Anish Kapoor](#)

Thu 6 Aug, 2pm, Hayward Gallery. Tickets £22. Under-12s must be accompanied by an adult on our site.

Gigs | **Riverside Sessions** | **Free Programme** | [Tomorrow's Warriors: August Thursday](#)

Thu 6 Aug, 6pm, Riverside Terrace, Level 2. Free. For all ages.

Gigs | **Riverside Sessions** | **Free Programme** | [Raw Materials: Friday](#)

Fri 7 Aug, 6pm, Riverside Terrace, Level 2. Free. For all ages.

Gigs | **Riverside Sessions** | **Free Programme** | [Bass in the Borough](#)

Fri 7 Aug, 6.30pm, Clore Ballroom, Level 2, Royal Festival Hall. Free. For all ages.

Gigs | **Riverside Sessions** | **Free Programme** | [Hekayyatna: Saturday](#)

Sat 8 Aug, 2pm, Riverside Terrace, Level 2. Free. For all ages.

Visual Arts | **Classical Music** | [Brian Elias & Ben Goldscheider: TOUCHING THE QUICK](#)

Sat 8 Aug, 6pm & 7pm, Hayward Gallery. Tickets £22, includes entry to the exhibition. Under-12s must be accompanied by an adult on our site.

Gigs | **Riverside Sessions** | **Free Programme** | [Hekayyatna: Sunday](#)

Sun 9 Aug, 1pm, Riverside Terrace, Level 2. Free. For all ages.

Gigs | **Riverside Sessions** | **Free Programme** | [Tracks on Tap: Thursday](#)

Thu 13 Aug, 6pm, Riverside Terrace, Level 2. Free. For all ages.

Visual Arts | [Hayward Gallery Lates: Anish Kapoor](#)

Thu 13 Aug, 6.30pm, Hayward Gallery. Tickets from £7. For ages 16+.

Gigs | **Riverside Sessions** | **Free Programme** | [Boundless: Friday](#)

Fri 14 Aug, 6pm, Riverside Terrace, Level 2. Free. For all ages.

Gigs | **Riverside Sessions** | **Free Programme** | [Kinetika Bloco Summer Showcase](#)

Fri 14 Aug, 7pm, Clore Ballroom, Level 2, Royal Festival Hall. Free. For all ages.

Gigs | **Riverside Sessions** | **Free Programme** | [ZooNation Youth Company: Saturday](#)

Sat 15 Aug, 2pm, Riverside Terrace, Level 2. Free. For all ages.

Gigs | **Riverside Sessions** | **Free Programme** | [ZooNation Youth Company: Sunday](#)

Sun 16 Aug, 1pm, Riverside Terrace, Level 2. Free. For all ages.

Gigs | **Riverside Sessions** | **Free Programme** | [Kinetika Bloco: Thursday](#)

Thu 20 Aug, 6pm, Riverside Terrace, Level 2. Free. For all ages.

Gigs | **Riverside Sessions** | **Free Programme** | [Raze Collective: Friday](#)

Fri 21 Aug, 6pm, Riverside Terrace, Level 2. Free. For all ages.

Gigs | **Riverside Sessions** | **Free Programme** | [Arts Emergency: Saturday](#)

Sat 22 Aug, 2pm, Riverside Terrace, Level 2. Free. For all ages.

Literature & Spoken Word | [Colson Whitehead: Cool Machine](#)

Sat 22 Aug, 7.45pm, Purcell Room. Tickets from £17 + £4 booking fee. For ages 15+.

Gigs | [Chicane](#)

Sat 22 Aug, 8pm, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £41.50 + £4 booking fee. For ages 14+.

Gigs | **Riverside Sessions** | **Free Programme** | [Arts Emergency: Sunday](#)

Sun 23 Aug, 1pm, Riverside Terrace, Level 2. Free. For all ages.

Gigs | [Kenny G](#)

Sun 23 Aug, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £47 + £4 booking fee. For ages 14+.

Performance & Dance | **Families & Young People** | [CBeebies House Party Live](#)

Tue 25 Aug, 1pm, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £20 + £4 booking fee. For ages 0 – 6.

Literature & Spoken Word | [Colin Grant: What We Leave We Carry](#)

Wed 26 Aug, 7.45pm, Purcell Room. Tickets from £17 + £4 booking fee. For ages 15+.

Classical Music | **Visual Arts** | [Gaia x BBC Concert Orchestra: Sounds of the Earth](#)

Fri 28 Aug, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £22 + £4 booking fee. For ages 7+.

Literature & Spoken Word | [Mieko Kawakami: Sisters in Yellow](#)

Fri 28 Aug, 7.45pm, Purcell Room. Tickets from £17 + £4 booking fee. For ages 15+.

Gigs | **Riverside Sessions** | **Free Programme** | [Heart n Soul's Let It Be Awesome Party!](#)

Sat 29 Aug, 2pm, Riverside Terrace, Level 2. Free. For all ages.

Classical Music | **Visual Arts** | [Gaia x Eric Whitacre: Eternity in an Hour](#)

Sat 29 Aug, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £22 + £4 booking fee. For ages 7+.

Visual Arts | [Luke Jerram: Gaia](#)

Sun 30 Aug, 10am, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £5 + £4 booking fee. For all ages..

FOOD, DRINK & SHOPPING

Food, Drink & Shopping | [Seventy5th Balcony Bar](#)

Tues – Sun: 10am – 10.30pm, Royal Festival Hall, Level 5, closed Mon.

Food, Drink & Shopping | [Southbank Centre Food Market](#)

Fri – Sun, 12pm, Southbank Centre Square.

Food, Drink & Shopping | [Roof Garden Bar & Kitchen](#)

Wed – Sun, Queen Elizabeth Hall Roof Garden.

Food, Drink & Shopping | [Festival Bar & Kitchen](#)

Tue - Sun 10am – 10.30pm. Royal Festival Hall, Level 2, Closed Mon.

Food, Drink & Shopping | [Southbank Centre Shops](#)

Find gifts for lovers of art, music and big ideas. Shop in-store or online. Royal Festival Hall, Mandela Walk, Hayward Gallery. Tue – Sun: 11.30am – 7pm. Closed Mon.

Food, Drink & Shopping | [Summer Food & Drink Pop-ups](#)

23 April – 20 September 2025. Monday – Sunday: 11am – 11pm. Queen's Walk.

Food, Drink & Shopping | [Hayward Gallery Shop for Anish Kapoor](#)

Tue 16 Jun, Hayward Gallery Shop and Online: Tue – Fri, 10am – 6pm, Sat, 10am – 8pm, Sun, 10am – 6pm. Closed Mon.

HAYWARD GALLERY TOURING EXHIBITIONS AROUND THE UK

Visual Arts | [Paula Rego: Visions of English Literature](#)

22 May – 6 Sep, Newlands House Gallery, Petworth For timings and tickets, please see venue website.

Visual Arts | [Joan Miró: Painting and Poetry](#)

20 June – 23 August, The Brompton Museum, Newcastle under Lyme. For timings and tickets, please see venue website.

Visual Arts | [To Improvise A Mountain: Lynette Yiadom-Boakye Curates](#)

27 June – 13 September, De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill on Sea. For timings and tickets, please see venue website.

Visual Arts | [Matisse: Drawing with Scissors](#)

27 June – 18 October, Preston Park Museum, Stockton-on-Tees. For timings and tickets, please see venue website.

Visual Arts | [Linder: Danger Came Smiling | on tour](#)

18 July – 3 October, Grundy Art Gallery, Blackpool. For timings and tickets, please see venue website.

#ENDS#