

Press Release

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Southbank Centre announces shortlist for WOW Women in Creative Industries Awards

Southbank Centre today announces the shortlist for its WOW Women in Creative Industries Awards, including **Imogen Heap, Lubaina Himid, FKA Twigs, Glenda Jackson, Reni Eddo-Lodge** and **Rachel Whiteread**, nominated by a panel of power-house judges and awarded on Wednesday 7 March.



Women in Creative Industries Awards judges (L-R) Dame Julia Peyton-Jones DBE, Nikesh Shukla, Deborah Williams, Jude Kelly, Sarah Crompton, Jenny Sealey MBE, Martin Green and John McGrath. Not pictured: Amy Lamé, Anne-Marie Curtis and Maria Balshaw CBE.

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, who are leading the way in the creative industries.

The winners will be announced at a ceremony at Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall, from **12pm on Wednesday 7 March 2018** as part of the **Women in Creative Industries Day**, the first day of Southbank Centre's *WOW London 2018* festival, supported by Bloomberg.

The impressive panel of judges includes: 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. The judging will be convened by **Jude Kelly** and arts editor, broadcaster and critic, **Sarah Crompton**.

Previous winners include Dame Julia Peyton-Jones and Director and Playwright Paulette Randall, both honoured with Lifetime Achievement Awards, and Bryony Kimmings, Live Artist, Playwright and Director who received a Bold Moves Award. This year there are five new categories including the Gender Equality Champion and Inspiring Change awards.

Founder of the Women in Creative Industries Awards and the WOW - Women of the World festival, Southbank Centre Artistic Director, Jude Kelly CBE said: *"Last year we heard women's voices loud and strong. However, we are often still shy about claiming the recognition for ourselves that we deserve. I created these awards to help us reflect not only on the brilliance of female artists and creatives, but also on the risks individual women have taken to push their sectors towards equality. I hope that by holding these incredible people up and celebrating their achievements, we can inspire those who are in the industry both now and in the future to make it a more representative one."*

Judging co-convenor, writer and broadcaster Sarah Crompton said: *"Drawing up the nominations for the WOW awards has been fascinating and inspiring. There are so many women doing such great things and it is thrilling to celebrate what they are all up to in this way. The only pity is that we can't nominate every single bold, brilliant and committed woman out there."*

The Women in Creative Industries Day is part of Southbank Centre's eighth *WOW - Women of the World* festival, and offers an opportunity for men and women working across the creative industries to discuss how to achieve gender equality in the sector and a chance to celebrate the important improvements that have taken place over the last year. Programmed in partnership with the Creative Industries Federation, the talks include **Vicky Featherstone**, Artistic Director of Royal Court Theatre, on her initiative No Grey Area, which aimed to shine a light on the systemic nature of sexual harassment in the theatre industry; and **Tea Uglow**, Creative Director of Google's Creative Lab in Sydney speaking about The Genius Gap: Women and Creative Confidence. Other talks include Intersectionality in the Creative Industries with author **Juno Dawson** and Understanding and Using Power with **Hilary Carty**, Director of the Clore Leadership Programme. **Rosie Millard OBE**, Chair of Hull UK City of Culture 2017 and Deputy CEO of the Creative Industries Federation, **Ella d'Amato**, Chief Commercial and Partner Officer for notonthehighstreet.com and **Otegha Uwagba**, author of Little Black Book: A Toolkit for Working Women will be speaking on Womenomics: finance and funding.

Full day tickets, including the award ceremony, are on sale for £25 at southbankcentre.co.uk / 0203 879 9555

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

WOW Women in Creative Industries 2018 Awards and Nominees:

Bold Moves Award.

These awards celebrate 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. Nominees are:

- 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.
- **Maria Oshodi**, for founding Extant, Britain's leading professional performing arts company for visually impaired performers and for her continued innovation in expanding opportunities and possibilities in this field.
- Theatre director **Katie Mitchell**, for her boundary-pushing direction and her commitment to putting the voices of women centre-stage and giving them agency and power.
- Multi award-winning trans author **Juno Dawson** for her young adult fiction and non-fiction boldly addressing LGBT issues.
- **Linder Sterling**, for continually pushing the boundaries of aesthetics and for her radical refusal to compromise her feminist vision, from punk and post-punk to the present day.
- **Glenda Jackson**, for deciding that she would only return to the theatre after a 25 year absence if she could play King Lear - and playing the part with such power and passion.

Fighting the Good Fight

This award is in recognition of a woman who has demonstrated great tenacity and on-going commitment to excellence within the creative industries. Nominees are:

- Novelist **Kate Mosse**, for her international acclaim and continued work supporting women writers, including co-founding the the annual Women's Prize for Fiction in 1996.
- Artist **Rachel Whiteread**, the first woman to win the annual Turner Prize, for continuing to maintain her place at the forefront of contemporary sculpture, working in a way that astounds and inspires others.
- **Mira Kaushik**, Director of Akademi, for her inspiring work nurturing the UK's South Asian dancers and choreographers whilst building and expanding the audience for classical, contemporary and participatory South Asian dance.
- **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
- **Sarah Frankcom**, for her bold work in transforming Manchester Royal Exchange into a globally-recognised centre for excellence, with work by, for and about women at its heart.
- **Gilly Adams**, for four decades of support for generations of writers, particularly women, as a founding member of the international network of women in theatre, the Magdalena Project, and as a mentor for theatre, radio and personal writing.

Inspiring Change Award

This award recognises 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.

Nominees are:

- **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.

- **Sharmaine Lovegrove**, who set up her own imprint, Dialogue Books, at Hachette, the country's biggest publisher, to publish marginalised voices traditionally kept out of publishing. Her voyage from literary scout to publishing director of her own imprint is in itself inspiring.
- **Jackie Hagen**, a multi-award winning writer and performer, for campaigning to make working class voices heard and for enabling people who have been silenced to find a space to speak.
- **Tamara Rojo**, as Artistic Director of English National Ballet she has made commissioning and performing the work of women choreographers part of the company's work, and part of its on-going excellence.
- **Sabrina Mahfouz**, playwright, poet and screenwriter, for her ceaseless commitment to drawing attention to other women's lives, both through her own work and through editing *The Things I Would Tell You: British Muslim Women Write*.
- **Dawn Walton**, founder and Artistic Director of Eclipse Theatre Company, the UK's foremost Black-led national production company which for 20 years has delivered diverse programming in theatres around the country thus becoming a beacon for Black artists and theatre-makers.

Gender Equality Champion Award.

This award is 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. Nominees are:

- **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.
- **Nadine Davis** and **Tia Simon-Campbell** for BBZ (or Babes), an exhibition and club night centering femme identity and eradicating misogyny for queer woman, trans folk and non-binary people of colour.
- **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.
- **Rachel Long** for setting up Octavia, a poetry collective for women of colour, and so giving a group whose voices are rarely heard and who can seem invisible a powerful platform for their creativity.
- **Alice Farnham**, one of Britain's leading female conductors, for her relentless campaign as a co-founder and artistic director of Women Conductors, to encourage women to take up conducting, an area of classical music entirely dominated by men.

Breaking New Ground Award.

An award for women who are innovating new technologies and digital projects, or breaking new ground with cutting edge thinking within their fields. Nominees are:

- **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.
- **Clare Reddington**, Creative Director of Watershed and leader of its Pervasive Media Studio, for the way she has championed the use of digital platforms as a creative, inclusive vibrant force, transforming Bristol's cultural scene.
- Musician, producer, dancer and director **FKA Twigs**, for playing joyfully with genre and form and using social media to counter racism and entrenched attitudes, including her new Instagram magazine, *AVANTgarden*
- **Imogen Heap**, the only music artist to win a Grammy for engineering with her creation of Mi.Mu 'musical gloves', which have changed the way people make music.
- **Jude Ower**, CEO and Founder of Playmob, which explores the potential for charities to raise money through games and gaming.

- **Roshni Goyate** and **Leyya Sattar** for founding The Other Box - Award winning platform celebrating people of colour and other minorities in the creative industries.

Outstanding Achievement Award 2016-17.

This is 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. Nominees are:

- Artist **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.
- Artist **Phyllida Barlow**, for representing Britain at the Venice Biennale this year with an ambitious large-scale installation in the UK Pavilion. She has also maintained her artistic practice for more than four decades, and exhibited constantly, in tandem with her wide-ranging personal and professional commitments.
- **Alice Birch**, feminist playwright, for a remarkable year in which her screenplay for *Lady Macbeth*, winner of the best screenplay at the British Independent Film Awards 2017, and her play *Anatomy of a Suicide* at the Royal Court, gave agency and voice to the lives and thoughts of women.
- **Josette Bushell-Mingo**, theatre actress and director, for her performance piece *Nina - a story about me and Nina Simone*, in which she turned a revealing tribute to the pioneering singer into a profound meditation about whether you can use your voice to start a revolution, and the need for resistance.
- **Ambreen Razia**, playwright, for her award-winning debut play, *Diary of a Hounslow Girl* which brought the hidden lives of young Muslim women to a wide audience around the country by telling the story of a 16-year-old growing up in West London with humour and insight.
- Filmmaker, writer and director **Hope Dickson-Leach** for her astounding directorial debut *The Levelling*, a devastating domestic drama which announced her as an original and important creative voice and for which she was awarded the IWC Filmmaker Bursary Award in Association with the BFI.

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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.