

SOUTHBANK CENTRE

MELTDOWN

Press Release

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Images: available to download [here](#)

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Final acts for Grace Jones' Meltdown revealed plus free public events



Greentea Peng © WME Agency

- Greentea Peng, Dry Cleaning, Eska, Alewya, Josey Rebelle, cktrl with the London Contemporary Orchestra join the festival line-up
- Eclectic range of free-to-attend events revealed including roller skating party, soundsystem sound clash, public catwalk with Africa Fashion Week London, hula hooping masterclass and more
- Grace Jones' Meltdown runs Friday 10 to Sunday 19 June 2022
- Tickets for newly added shows on sale Wednesday 13 April at 10:00am via southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/festivals-series/meltdown

The **Southbank Centre** and **Grace Jones** have today revealed the third and final names of artists who are performing during this year's **Meltdown** festival, running Friday 10 to Sunday 19 June 2022. In addition to the new acts, the eclectic free public programme, which brings together a huge number of performers and activities inspired by Grace Jones' career, has also been announced.

New names for Meltdown

The latest addition to the Royal Festival Hall line-up, neo-soul star **Greentea Peng** will perform as part of Grace Jones' Meltdown on Thursday 16 June. Her vibrant 2021 debut *MAN MADE* captured imaginations with its hypnotic blend of psychedelia and free-and-easy R&B. Greentea Peng's Meltdown performance will be characterised by her potent spirit of communion and creativity, influenced by the likes of Lauryn Hill and Erykah Badu. Opening for Grace Jones on the final night of the festival, Sunday 19 June, **Eska** will deliver a show of her rich and restless soundscapes. Alongside her lauded Mercury Award-nominated album *ESKA*, her eclectic career has included collaborations with artists such as Zero 7, Tony Allen, Matthew Herbert, Bobby McFerrin, UNKLE, designer Rick Owens and, of course, Grace Jones.

On Monday 13 June, post-punk group **Dry Cleaning** will shred the Queen Elizabeth Hall with their no-nonsense riffs winding over poetic monologues which have made the band such a hot-tipped talent. In the Purcell Room on Saturday 18 June, genre-hopping Lewisham local **cktrl** — standing for 'can't keep to reality' — will perform a very special show with Southbank Centre regulars the **London Contemporary Orchestra**, renowned for their enthralling events with boundary breaking artists such as Laurel Halo, Coby Sey and Hinako Omori. Completing Honey Dijon's line-up for Meltdown's electric opening night party on Friday 10 June in the Queen Elizabeth Foyer, **Josey Rebelle** will step up to the decks alongside a live set from multidisciplinary producer, singer and Lil Simz collaborator **Alewya**, running long into the early hours.

The new names join [recent additions to Grace Jones' Meltdown](#) including alt-synth star **Sky Ferreira**, her first show in the UK since 2014, 'Africa's premier diva' and recent Grammy winner **Angélique Kidjo**, sublime songsmith **John Grant** and a unique performance between members of **Hot Chip** and Congolese supergroup **Kasai Allstars**, as well as breakthrough acts including **Desire Marea**, **Big Joanie** and **Skinny Pelembe**. Grace Jones herself also added a new show, now opening her festival with '**Grace Jones: Up Close and Orchestral**', featuring a live orchestra.

Tickets for the newly announced shows will be on sale **Wednesday 13 April at 10:00am** via southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/festivals-series/meltdown .

A free public programme for all

Taking place on the Southbank Centre's sun drenched terrace, overlooking the River Thames, the Meltdown public programme is inspired by Grace Jones' enormous creative canon, featuring a wealth of immersive activities, music and more, all for free.

As every festival should, we kickstart Meltdown on the terrace, Friday 10 June with **Nightclubbing** produced in collaboration with **No Signal**, the radio station celebrating Black British culture and communities. Featuring an incredible line-up of back-to-back DJ's, each will select tunes in celebration of Grace's impact as an icon.

Inspired by the iconic 1973 photograph of Grace Jones roller-skating on Compo Beach, and the capital's huge love for the activity, **Roll Up To The Bumper** on Saturday 11 June will feature workshops so visitors can roll through and hone their skills while grooving along to a day-long programme of music and DJ sets, spanning disco and soul to modern grime. **Island Life Reggae Soundclash**, meanwhile, will see two soundsystem titans go toe-to-toe in celebration of Grace Jones' homeland, Jamaica, on Sunday 12 June.

A reference to one of Grace Jones' most celebrated hits, **Slay To The Rhythm** on Friday 17 June will see a show-stopping gospel choir perform covers of Grace Jones' smash songs throughout the day. They will also invite members of the public to practice their harmonies and be part of a mighty choir on the Southbank Centre terrace, filling the air with Grace Jones' music.

Instantly recognisable, and totally unmissable, Grace Jones' Meltdown would not be complete without a homage to her unparalleled sartorial splendour. On Saturday 18 June, **A Night of A Thousand Graces** will be a collaboration with **Africa Fashion Week London**, featuring show-stopping looks and catwalk wonders while the Rock the Runway categories invite the audience to take to the floor and dazzle the guest judges. There may even be prizes for those who understand the assignment.

Finally, rounding off the festival on Sunday 19 June with a spinning send off is **Do or Die ...or Disco** with **Marawa's Majorettes**. This international award-winning performance troupe will be drawing curtains on the festival's free outdoor programme teaching us the ways of the ever svelte disco diva. Limber up and loosen your hips to make the most of our outdoor daytime disco, featuring hula hoop workshops, routines to learn, and performances to get stuck into.

Further free-to-attend events activities are still to be revealed. Running throughout the duration of Meltdown, **Travis Alabanza** leads us devoutly in saying Grace with site design audio installation **We Say Grace**. This new poetry commission will be broadcast across the site at various points throughout the festival in reverence to our luminous Meltdown curator, her cultural canon and her genius.

Mark Ball, Southbank Centre's Artistic Director, added: *"Alongside the fantastic artists already announced for Grace Jones' Meltdown, we're delighted that Grace has now put the finishing touches to her extraordinary line up. From post-punk to psychedelia to R&B, Meltdown brings a truly eclectic line up of talent who are both inspired by Grace Jones and are a testament to her musical curiosity and inventiveness. There really is something for everyone, reaffirming the Southbank Centre as an open and inclusive space where people from all backgrounds can come together and enjoy Grace's incredible curation."*

ENDS

For further press information please contact:

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Images: available to download [here](#)

Full Meltdown 2022 Programme [here](#).

LATEST ADDITIONS

We Say Grace (free public programme)

Friday 10 June 2022 — Sunday 19 June, site wide

Nightclubbing with No Signal (free public programme)

Friday 10 June 2022, from 6:00pm, Riverside Terrace

Roll Up to The Bumper (free public programme)

Saturday 11 June 2022, from 2:00pm, Riverside Terrace

Island Life Reggae Soundclash (free public programme)

Sunday 12 June 2022, from 1:00pm, Riverside Terrace

Dry Cleaning

Monday 13 June 2022, 7:30pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall

Greentea Peng

Thursday 16 June 2022, 7:30pm, Royal Festival Hall

Slay to the Rhythm (free public programme)

Friday 17 June 2022, from 6:00pm, Riverside Terrace

A Night of A Thousand Graces With AFWL (free public programme)

Saturday 18 June 2022, from 2:00pm, Riverside Terrace

cktrl x LCO

Saturday 18 June 2022, 7:45pm, Purcell Room

Do or Die... or Disco (free public programme)

Sunday 19 June 2022, from 1pm, Riverside Terrace

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Grace Jones

Grace Jones is one of the most recognised figures of contemporary culture with an influence spanning genres and generations. After taking the world by storm as one of the first black supermodels, Jones signed to Island Records in 1977 and with her first few singles - and mould-breaking fashion - became a star of New York City's Studio 54-centered disco scene. The 1980s saw her move to a new-wave hybrid of reggae, funk, pop and rock, as she worked with superstar producers such as Trevor Horn and Nile Rodgers and released a string of internationally acclaimed and enduring albums including *Warm Leatherette* (1980), *Nightclubbing* (1981), and *Slave to the Rhythm* (1985). The decade also saw her big-screen takeover with leading roles in hit movies such as *Conan the Destroyer* (1984), *A View to a Kill* (1985), and *Vamp* (1986). Her bold, androgynous image defined the visual landscape of the 1970s and 1980s making her a muse to the most exciting artists and designers of the era from Issey Miyake and Thierry Mugler to Andy Warhol, Basquiat and long-time collaborator Jean-Paul Goude. Through her enduring influence on countless artists from Bjork to Lady Gaga, and with her status quo-defying attitude, her legacy is one of fierce individuality and fearless self-expression. She continues to perform globally, captivating audiences with her musicianship, extravagant outfits and wild performances.

Meltdown, 1993 – present

The Southbank Centre's award-winning *Meltdown* festival has been running annually since 1993 and is the longest-running artist-curated festival in the world. Each year the Southbank Centre invites a different cultural figure to act as curator and select performers and events of their choosing. Previous curators are: Nile Rodgers, Robert Smith, M.I.A., Guy Garvey, David Byrne, James Lavelle, Yoko Ono, Anohni, Ray Davies, Richard Thomson, Ornette Coleman, Massive Attack, Jarvis Cocker, Patti Smith, Morrissey, Lee Scratch-Perry, David Bowie, Robert Wyatt, Scott Walker, Nick Cave, John Peel, Laurie Anderson, Magnus Lindberg, Elvis Costello, Louis Andriessen and George Benjamin. Previous performers include Philip Glass, Lou Reed, Ivor Cutler, Sonic Youth, Suicide, Nina Simone, Blur, Radiohead, David Gilmour, Coldplay, Mercury Rev, Television, The Dandy Warhols, The Polyphonic Spree, The Yeah Yeah Yeahs, Nancy Sinatra, Bert Jansch, Jeff Beck, John Cale, Iggy & The Stooges, Motorhead, Massive Attack, Moby, Nine Inch Nails, The Libertines, The Cure and Femi Kuti. *Meltdown* has a reputation for staging one-off performances and collaborations by legendary artists. Patti Smith performed *Horses* in full for her *Meltdown*; Ray Davies re-staged the TV pop show 'Ready Steady Go!'; Jeff Buckley played his final UK show at Elvis Costello's *Meltdown*; The New York Dolls reunited for Morrissey; Nick Cave, Grace Jones and Pete Doherty sang Disney songs with Jarvis Cocker; and a rare live performance from Cocteau Twins' Elizabeth Fraser was part of Anohni's *Meltdown*. Robert Smith's 2018 *Meltdown* was nominated for Music Week Awards Festival of the Year and won the AIM Independent Music Awards 'Act of Independence' Award. It has been overseen by the Southbank Centre's former Head of Contemporary Music, Bengi Ünsal, and continues to be produced by long-term *Meltdown* producer Rhodri Jones.

About the Southbank Centre

The Southbank Centre is the UK's largest arts centre occupying a prominent riverside location that sits in the midst of London's most vibrant cultural quarter on the South Bank of the Thames. We exist to present great cultural experiences that bring people together and we achieve this by providing the space for artists to create and present their best work and by creating a place where as many people as possible can come together to experience bold, unusual and eye-opening work. We want to take people out of the everyday, every day. The site has an extraordinary creative and architectural history stretching back to the 1951 Festival of Britain. The Southbank Centre is made up of the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and Hayward Gallery as well as being home to the National Poetry Library and the Arts Council Collection. It is also home to six Resident Orchestras (Aurora Orchestra, Chineke! Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, London Sinfonietta, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and Philharmonia Orchestra).

