

SOUTHBANK CENTRE

An aerial photograph of a large public water fountain walkway. The walkway is a dark, gridded metal surface with numerous vertical jets of water spraying upwards, creating a misty atmosphere. Several people are walking across the fountain. In the center, a group of four people is huddled together, looking at something in their hands. To the right, a woman in a black headscarf and a man in a white shirt are walking. In the bottom right corner, a man in a blue and white striped shirt is looking down at the water. The overall scene is bright and lively, suggesting a summer day.

A summer reunion
Year in Review 2021/22

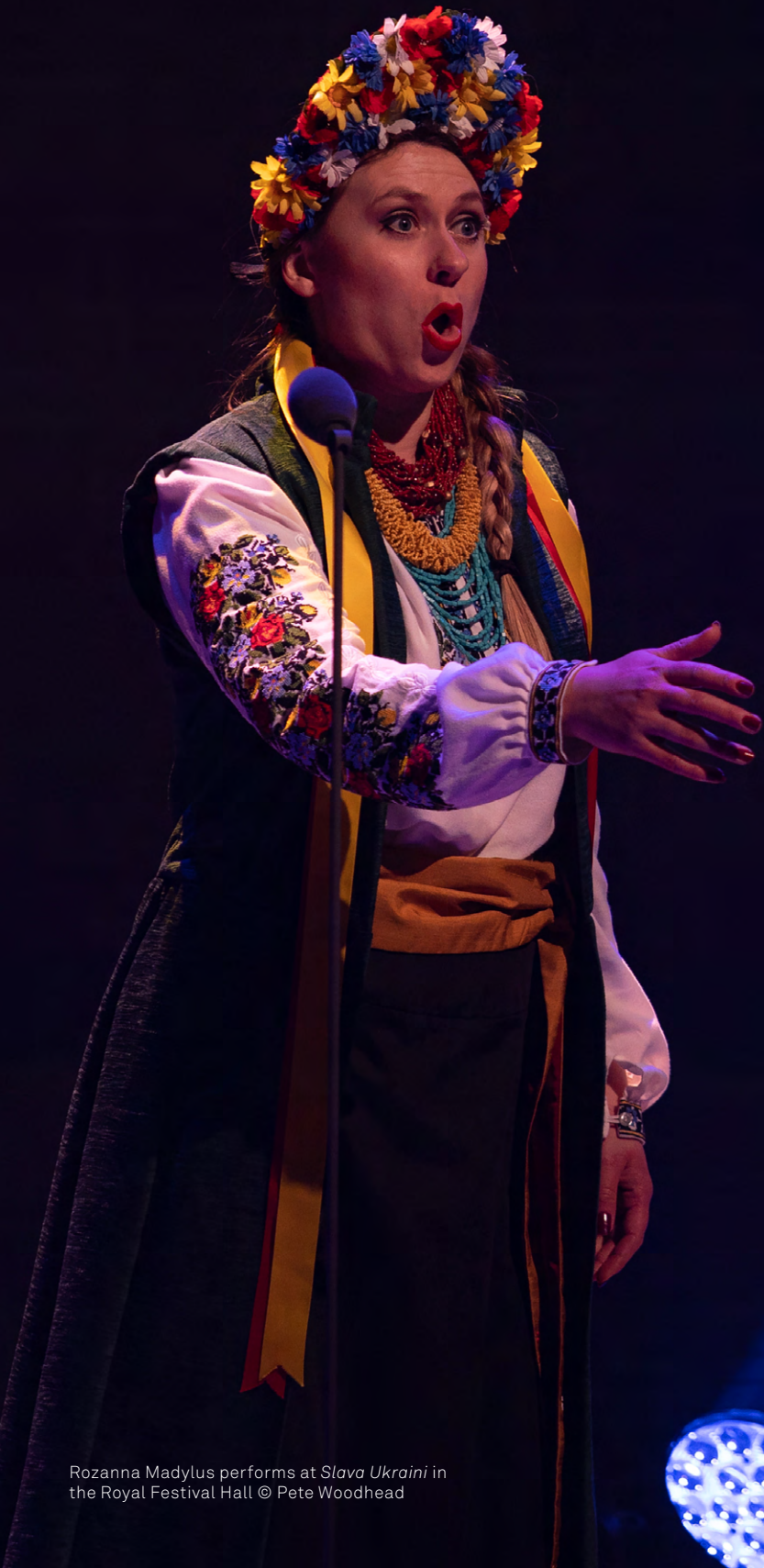


**2021/22 was an exciting year of
reopenings and reconnections
for the Southbank Centre.**

**‘After the cultural famine
of the Covid years, the
Southbank Centre is back
with a vengeance as a
buzzing hive of activity.’**

West End Best Friend

For our returning audiences, we were proud to deliver a programme of live performance events, including music, dance, literature and spoken word, many of which had been postponed from 2020/21, as well as a full visual arts exhibition programme. Our reopening was enabled by the Culture Recovery Fund and meant we could plan ahead with confidence.



‘It was with relief and excitement that we returned to doing what we do best – producing and presenting life-enhancing, accessible, live events for everyone.’

Elaine Bedell
Chief Executive

After a difficult 18 months when people yearned for cultural experiences with others, we were delighted to welcome audiences back on-site to come together and experience live performance again.

Welcoming audiences back for a joyful reunion

We were determined to continue to contribute to the culture sector's healing, first by exhibiting world class visual arts in a gallery setting – we opened *Matthew Barney: Redoubt* in the Hayward Gallery – then by staging the biggest outdoor summer festival we've ever had, with 15 weekends of free live outdoor stage events.

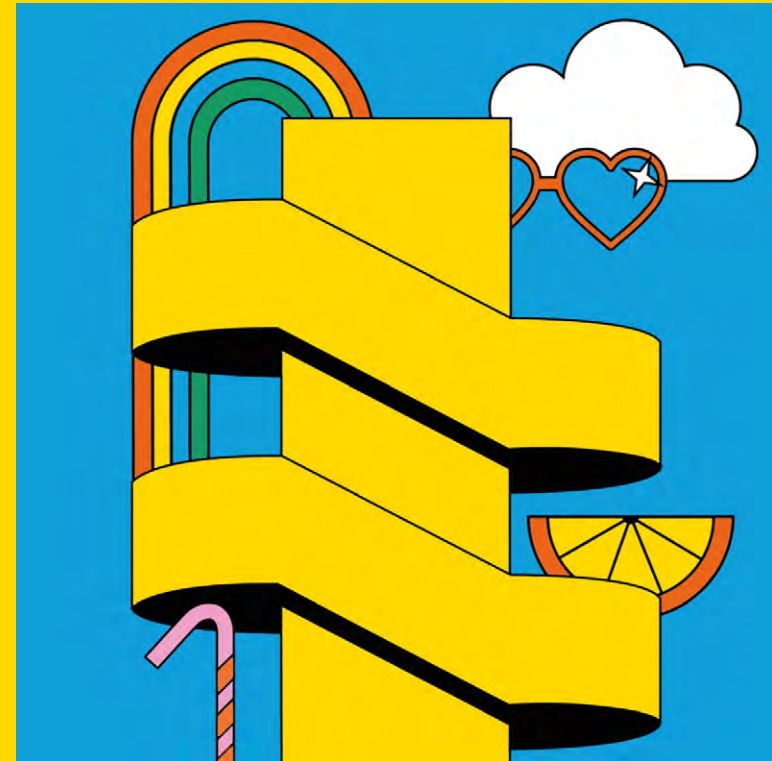
We undertook detailed work to ensure the site was Covid-secure and we programmed an extensive free outdoor summer programme

delivering 242 hours of high-quality, free multi-artform events to over 20,000 people of all ages and backgrounds.

Our *Summer Reunion* programme hosted everything from DJs and bands to comedy and cabaret, meaning that people could once again freely mingle and enjoy our markets and pop-ups whilst also experiencing our specially commissioned outdoor art installations.

44%
of events were
free public events

1.342m
visitors (venue visits
+ external programming)



484,000
tickets sold

15
weekends of free culture on
the Riverside Terrace stage

3,616
events

61,963
regional audience reached
through Hayward Gallery Touring



Misan Harriman
Chair



Elaine Bedell
Chief Executive

As the UK's largest arts centre, we are the beating heart of a world-leading, extraordinary cultural ecosystem, reaching out to the widest possible audience while remaining true to our history of excellence, relevance and innovation, and providing the most extensive free arts programme in the UK.

Reopening after the pandemic restrictions eased gave us the opportunity to evolve the next stage of our strategy to reflect the rapidly changing world in which we operate. We have a new set of Strategic Principles that will accelerate our work as a change-maker, equalising opportunity for people and communities who for too long have been excluded from an artistic life or a creative career. It also responds to our principal funder Arts Council

England's vision as set out in its *Let's Create* strategy, and embeds our commitment to helping ACE achieve its vision for 2030.

It really feels as though the Southbank Centre is back and firing on all cylinders again, and with exciting plans ahead and with a new artistic leadership, I'm looking forward to sharing the coming year's activity with you.

It was with relief and excitement that we reopened our doors to the public in April 2021 and returned to doing what we do best at the Southbank Centre: producing and presenting life-enhancing, accessible, live events for everyone, across all our venues (Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and Hayward Gallery) as well as our many outdoor spaces.

We were able once again to provide a platform for freelance artists and performers as well as a new dedicated space for emerging talent to create new collaborative, cross-disciplinary work in our *Purcell Sessions* series.

We invited the public back to the Hayward Gallery – culminating in a major retrospective of the legendary Louise Bourgeois which focused on her work using fabric and textiles. Visitors also returned to the National Poetry Library, where they could once again revel in the world's largest collection of modern poetry.

Hayward Gallery Touring worked with curators on 14 regional exhibitions, including *British Art Show 9*. We continued to look after the Arts Council Collection, co-curating exhibitions across England and Wales with cultural partners in Yorkshire, Nottingham, Plymouth, Hull, Walsall, Leicester, Norwich and Swansea. In addition to our acclaimed national billboard exhibition, our *Art By Post* exhibition of works by participants toured to venues in Oxfordshire, Sunderland, Canterbury and Manchester.

We also returned to working in-person with schools, communities and individuals across the UK.

David Medalla's *A Stitch in Time* loaned from the Arts Council Collection; this mass-participation piece captured visitors' reflections as the Southbank Centre reopened its doors to the public.



Together



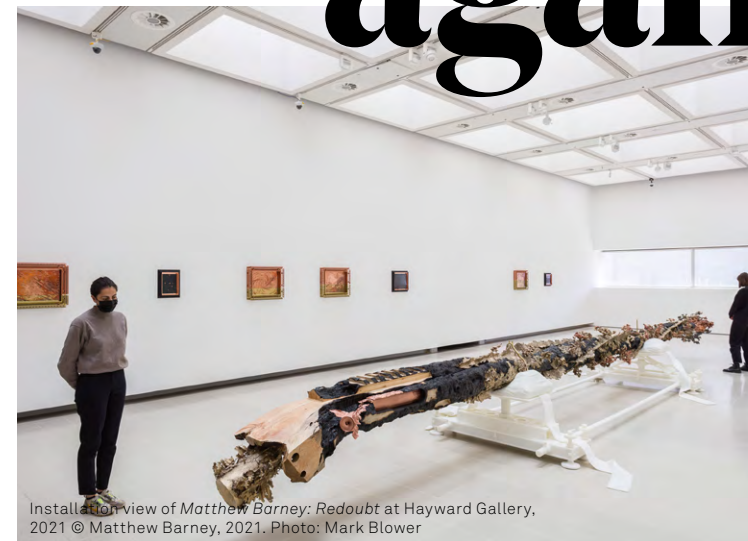
Ravi Shankar's centenary celebration: a programme of events to celebrate the life of the most influential Indian classical music composer and instrumentalist of all time culminated in a centenary concert led by Artist in Residence Anoushka Shankar.

The second edition of our *Winter Light* project illuminated our public spaces.



David Ogle's *Loomin* © Pete Woodhead

again



Installation view of *Matthew Barney: Redoubt* at Hayward Gallery, 2021 © Matthew Barney, 2021. Photo: Mark Blower

Matthew Barney: Redoubt in the Hayward Gallery launched a year of exhibitions that also included a major Louise Bourgeois retrospective and three new outdoor commissions, as well as *British Art Show 9*, which toured the UK.

Literature and spoken word events included global exclusives with Sally Rooney and Sir Paul McCartney (pictured), which received a British Media Awards nomination for Event of the Year.



The world-renowned orchestras and artists who came to our venues included Vikingur Ólafsson (pictured), Nicola Benedetti, Christian Tetzlaff, Steven Isserlis, Julia Fischer, Alice Sara Ott, Sheku Kanneh-Mason, Tamara Stefanovich, Stephen Hough, Maurizio Pollini, and a sold-out debut from rising star Alexandre Kantorow.

We hosted the BFI London Film Festival, two world film and TV premieres and a number of British film premieres all within six months of reopening.



Landmark farewell concerts took place here for two of the world's greatest conductors, Esa-Pekka Salonen (pictured) and Vladimir Jurowski, outgoing Principal Conductors of Southbank Centre Resident Orchestras the Philharmonia Orchestra and the London Philharmonic Orchestra respectively.



We believe in the power of arts to increase people's wellbeing, and in 2021 our Art by Post: Of Home and Hope exhibition celebrated the work of our Covid response project – Art by Post – which 4,500 people across the country took part in.

438

Arts & Wellbeing sessions delivered on-site, reaching 9,522 total participants

14,000

people reached by the touring exhibition (to Banbury, Sunderland, Canterbury, Manchester and Leicester) of works by participants in our landmark Art by Post programme, which distributed art packs to socially isolated people during the pandemic

We relaunched our monthly social dances, and launched the monthly Skylark Cafe for people with chronic health conditions and the (B)old programme in care settings. We welcomed back Arts & Wellbeing partners including Streetwise Opera, Grounded Ecotherapy and Breathe Arts Health Research, and our partnership with the National Academy for Social Prescribing saw us host and co-present their Social Prescribing Day show. In 2021/22 we delivered 438 Arts & Wellbeing sessions on-site, reaching 9,522 total participants.



Top: Skylark Connection Café © Pete Woodhead

Bottom: Installation view: Art by Post: Of Home and Hope, Southbank Centre, 2021

Opposite: Art by Post Participant and their records © Kate Elliott





Something for everyone

We are nothing without our communities, and as we reopened we consciously decided to programme work that would appeal to the communities we serve.

We are committed to equality and diversity as an organisation, and to promoting diversity across the entire arts and culture sector. One of our core missions is to open up the arts, ensuring that everyone is able to have access to great cultural experiences, and we work to ensure that we reach a diverse audience and platform emerging creatives to support their journey into the creative industries.

2021 saw the launch of our New Poets Collective programme, working with the National Poetry Library and managed by our Creative Learning team. The free, national programme helps a group of up to 15 diverse poets aged 22+ hone their skills and expand their knowledge and confidence through mentorship, development sessions and exposure to the Southbank Centre's artistic programme.

14%
Black, Asian and ethnically diverse audiences

12%
Lambeth and Southwark audiences

8%
under-30s audiences

44%
free public events



Above: New Poets Collective
© Sophie Ransby



Left: Schools Takeover Day at the Louise Bourgeois exhibition at the Hayward Gallery © Pete Woodhead

Opposite: Chineke! Orchestra
© Zen Grisdale

3,280

artists reached in 431 sessions of the Emerging Artists Programme

425

applications for 15 places on our New Poets Collective

1,920

children engaged in person in 55 school groups

3,240

children engagement through digital events in 162 school groups

163,360

children engaged with our digital resources in 8,168 school groups

1,000

children collaborated with children's author Zanib Mian and illustrator Selom Sunu to write a new book that was professionally published

We believe all children have a right to a first-class education that allows their creativity to flourish.

We are a living classroom for schools and teachers. Our vibrant family programme has more than 250 events a year and in 2021/22 we saw 32,868 tickets booked and 22,684 people attending our free family events.

Our flagship *Imagine Children's Festival* celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2022, with 160 events over 12 days, and 16,850 tickets sold.



Left: An audience at *Imagine Children's Festival* © Belinda Lawley

Above: A young performer from Kinetika Bloco on the Riverside Terrace at Southbank Centre © Kinetika Bloco

Opposite: A young audience member at *Imagine Children's Festival* © Belinda Lawley

Next page: Robert Ames conducts the London Contemporary Orchestra at *Slava Ukraini* © Pete Woodhead



**Engaging
arts lovers
of the future**



'It really feels as though the Southbank Centre is back and firing on all cylinders again'

Misan Harriman
Chair

YOU Thank

In a normal year we generate nearly 60% of our income through ticket sales and commercial activities. We are grateful recipients of a National Portfolio grant from Arts Council England which makes up a further 37% of our funding mix.

Together, this funding enables the Southbank Centre to continue operating with a core offer and maintain our 11-acre heritage site.

However, in order to build on the ambition and accessibility of our work, to invest in artists and art forms, and to deliver free programming and critically-needed education and outreach work in the community, as well as rebuild our business model after the pandemic, we rely on the generosity of our members, donors, corporate partners and grant-making bodies.

Their support now, more than ever, is vital – enabling us to present the highest-quality art for the enjoyment of all, and to break down social, cultural and economic barriers to access and participation.

Below: Do Your Own Thing DJ Takeover with Heart n Soul, as part of *Imagine Children's Festival*.



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And all those who wish to remain anonymous.

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We would also like to thank the Board of Governors of the Southbank Centre for their financial support, time and effort towards the realisation of our programme.

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