

# SOUTHBANK CENTRE

---

## Press Release

Date: Monday 10 July 2023

Contact: [louise.gilbert@southbankcentre.co.uk](mailto:louise.gilbert@southbankcentre.co.uk) and [naomi.o'toole@southbankcentre.co.uk](mailto:naomi.o'toole@southbankcentre.co.uk)

Images: [HERE](#)

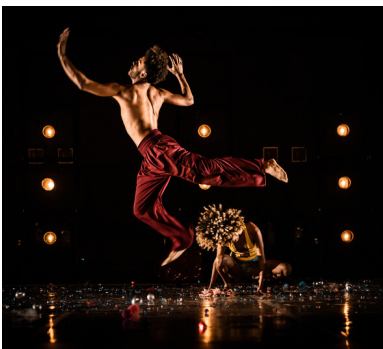
Listings: [HERE](#)

This press release is available in a range of formats. Please email [press@southbankcentre.co.uk](mailto:press@southbankcentre.co.uk)

## Southbank Centre announces new commissions and premieres as Artistic Director pledges renewed commitment to Performance and Dance

The new season spanning Autumn/Winter 2023/24 and features:

**Marina Abramović Institute Takeover | Alice Ripoll's *Zona Franca*  
The Faggots and Their Friends Between Revolutions  
(LA)HORDE & Ballet National de Marseille: *Roommates***



L-R: *Zona Franca*; Photo © Renato Mangolin / Marina Abramović Institute's *Despina Zacharopoulou*, *Corner Time*; Photo © Natalia Tsoukala / *The Faggots and Their Friends Between Revolutions*; Photo © Tristram Kenton.

The Southbank Centre today announces a stellar Autumn/Winter 2023/24 Performance and Dance season, featuring new commissions and premieres from adventurous and influential artists and up-and-coming names from around the world. The programme signals a renewed commitment to Performance and Dance under Artistic Director Mark Ball, who joined the UK's leading multi-arts centre in January 2022, and Aaron Wright, who was appointed Head of Performance and Dance in April 2023.

The season features new commissions including an exclusive takeover of the entire Queen Elizabeth Hall site curated by Marina Abramović and the **Marina Abramović Institute** (MAI) and (LA)HORDE's first major presentation in London they present the UK premiere of ***Roommates*** with a programme that features six pieces and brings together a multitude of contemporary choreographic styles.

**Mark Ball, Artistic Director of the Southbank Centre**, says: *“The Southbank Centre has for decades been one of London’s great venues for performance and dance. I’m delighted we’re making a renewed commitment to again being at the centre of live performance in the capital by commissioning and presenting some of the world’s most influential and exciting artists and performance makers. This is a boldly international programme that speaks to the future of how performance is being made, melding together dance, music and live art to offer unique experiences for audiences.”*

**Aaron Wright, Head of Performance & Dance at the Southbank Centre**, says: *“We’re excited to reveal this distinctive season of performance and dance that you won’t find anywhere else in London. This ambitious programme sets our intentions for a future of stimulating international performance here at the Southbank Centre. From beloved world class artists, to hot new talents making waves around the world: we encourage audiences to savour this rare opportunity to see such singular performances.”*

Commissioned by the Southbank Centre, the Marina Abramović Institute Takeover will use all the spaces of the Queen Elizabeth Hall to present long durational performances from 4 - 8 October. For the first time, artists will perform in dressing rooms, green rooms, technical spaces, and the foyer as well as the Queen Elizabeth Hall Auditorium and Purcell Room, giving audiences special access to backstage spaces to watch a unique array of durational performance curated by Abramović and MAI. Performers include Collective Absentia, Carla Adra, Paula Garcia, Carlos Martiel, Yiannis Pappas, Paul Setúbal, Despina Zacharopoulou, and more to be announced. Marina Abramović will participate on Wednesday 4 and Sunday 8 October (session 1) and will also be present at various other times during the Takeover.

**Marina Abramović** says *“Long durational performances are one of the most ephemeral, unique, difficult, demanding and transformative works of art today. My institute, Marina Abramović Institute, will present very different views of this medium.”*

*I am passionate about expanding beyond my own practice by supporting other performance artists through this project. MAI are looking forward to taking over all spaces of the Southbank Centre’s Queen Elizabeth Hall building in London. The public will be invited not just to be an observer, but also to actively participate.”*

In addition to the Takeover, Marina Abramović exclusively celebrates her new book **Marina Abramović: A Visual Biography by Marina Abramović with Katya Tylevich** as part of the literature programme in the Queen Elizabeth Hall on 1 October. Combining brand-new interviews, never-before-seen images and fascinating ephemera from Marina Abramović’s personal archives, the biography creates a visual landscape of her personal and artistic life. The Southbank Centre’s programme of Abramović’s work takes place soon after the *Marina Abramović* exhibition opens at the Royal Academy of Arts in September, and before the English National Opera’s *7 Deaths of Maria Callas* opens in November.

Other performances in the season include the long awaited London debut of internationally acclaimed Brazilian artists Alice Ripoll and Cia Suave with their new show **Zona Franca**. The work presents

elements of contact dance, Afrohouse, Sabala, TikTok, and dances from the north and northeast of Brazil, such as Pisadinha and Brega Funk.

Fresh from opening at Manchester International Festival, Factory International's ***The Faggots and Their Friends Between Revolutions*** plays for four performances only in January 2024. A Southbank Centre co-commission, this music theatre piece rewrites the history of the world through a joyful and utopian queer lens.

(LA)HORDE, renowned for bringing together choreography and pop-culture through collaborations with Sam Smith, Christine and the Queens and Madonna, now lead the acclaimed Ballet national de Marseille. For their first major presentation in London, they present the UK premiere of ***Roommates***, an evening which features six pieces made for the company from choreographers including Lucinda Childs, Peeping Tom and LA(HORDE) themselves — all connecting hyper-realism and minimalism, and bringing together a multitude of contemporary choreographic styles.

Full event listings [HERE](#)

Tickets go on sale to Southbank Centre's Members on Tuesday 11 July, 10am and to the general public on Wednesday 12 July, 10am [www.southbankcentre.co.uk](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk) / 0203 879 9555

# ENDS #

**For further information and press tickets please contact:**

[louise.gilbert@southbankcentre.co.uk](mailto:louise.gilbert@southbankcentre.co.uk) and [naomi.o'toole@southbankcentre.co.uk](mailto:naomi.o'toole@southbankcentre.co.uk)

**Join the conversation:**

@southbankcentre

## NOTES TO EDITORS

In April 2023, Aaron Wright joined the Southbank Centre as Head of Performance and Dance, beginning work on leading the long-term strategy for Performance and Dance, including dance, theatre, comedy and live art and building relationships and partnerships with artists, producers and organisations to develop innovative projects and programmes. Previously Artistic Director at Fierce in Birmingham, Aaron reports to Mark Ball, Artistic Director. For more information on Aaron's appointment please see [here](#).

### 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. 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). [www.southbankcentre.co.uk/](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/)

### About the Marina Abramović Institute

Marina Abramović Institute (MAI) presents and supports performance art at a global scale. Through an artist driven process, the Institute maintains both a multidisciplinary approach to performance and a focus on long durational work.

MAI seeks to address the complexity of the present time in order to shift awareness and consciousness of human beings through performance. The institute invites interdisciplinary collaboration and union between practitioners of all disciplines including art, science, technology, and spirituality.

In 2023, MAI opened its space in Karyes, Greece, to support creative processes around performance art and generate collaborative thinking. The Institute hosts *Cleaning the House*, a workshop developed by Abramović to reset the body and help understand one's physical or mental limits. The workshops are open to public participants coming from any discipline.

Globally, the institute creates communal participatory projects that critically engage with time, place, and human experiences. To date, MAI has presented major performance projects in Sao Paulo (2015), Athens (2016), Kyiv (2017), Bangkok (2018), Istanbul (2020), Amsterdam (2022).

Marina Abramović Institute is: Marina Abramović, Thanos Argyropoulos, Serge Le Borgne, Paula Garcia, Billy Zhao. [www.mai.art](http://www.mai.art)

### **Marina Abramović**

For further information on *Marina Abramović: A Visual Biography* by Marina Abramović with Katya Tylevich published in hardback by Laurence King on 21 September, please contact Elizabeth Allen: [Elizabeth.Allen@orionbooks.co.uk](mailto:Elizabeth.Allen@orionbooks.co.uk)

For further information on *Marina Abramović* exhibition at the Royal Academy of Arts (23 September 2023 – 1 January 2024), please contact Annabel Potter: [Annabel.Potter@royalacademy.org.uk](mailto:Annabel.Potter@royalacademy.org.uk)

For further information on the English National Opera's *7 Deaths of Maria Callas* (3 - 11 November), please contact Natasha Haddad: [nhaddad@eno.org](mailto:nhaddad@eno.org)

