

SOUTHBANK CENTRE

MELTDOWN

Press Release

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Press images: [HERE](#)

Grace Jones' *Meltdown* festival moves to June 2022

- *Meltdown* will move to June 2022 following government social distancing guidelines
- Grace Jones remains curator of the June 2022 festival, taking place from Friday 10 June - Sunday 19 June 2022
- Previously announced acts will remain including Grace Jones, Solange, Peaches, The Love Unlimited Synth Orchestra, Skunk Anansie, Baaba Maal, Lee Scratch Perry with Adrian Sherwood, Oumou Sangaré, Meshell Ndegeocello, Lee Fields and the Expressions
- Further artists will be added to the line-up in the Autumn

Grace Jones' *Meltdown* is to move to 2022, with the iconic artist remaining in place to curate and headline the much-anticipated Southbank Centre festival from Friday 10 June – Sunday 19 June 2022.

The move follows government advice that social distancing will continue until at least 21 June 2021, with venues expected to continue operating at reduced capacity. Grace Jones' *Meltdown* was due to be taking place this summer from Friday 11 June – Sunday 20 June 2021.

The Southbank Centre can confirm that previously announced acts remain in the 2022 *Meltdown* line-up, while Ladysmith Black Mambazo will appear at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on 15 October 2022 and Jimmy Cliff's *Meltdown* gig will be cancelled pending the further release of names for the line-up later in the Autumn.

The Southbank Centre will be in touch with all ticket holders with information on how tickets will be transferred to the new dates. All ticket holders for other planned events this Spring will receive information of rescheduled dates, credit vouchers, donations and refunds.

Bengi Ünsal, Head of Contemporary Music, the Southbank Centre, said:

“While it’s disappointing to be announcing that Grace Jones’ Meltdown will be postponed until June 2022, we are so grateful to everyone involved in helping us reschedule the hugely anticipated festival. Meltdown is the cornerstone of the Southbank Centre’s Contemporary Music programme and we know how much our audiences were looking forward to seeing the icon that is Grace Jones take to the Royal Festival Hall stage this summer, alongside an incredible array of artists. The regulations around social distancing make postponement the best course of action for a festival of this scale, to ensure we can retain the roster of global artists we’ve got lined-up and welcome all those who already hold tickets. We know it’s shaping up to be one of the most unforgettable Meltdown festivals ever and we can’t wait to share more names with you this Autumn.”

Meltdown has an unparalleled reputation among artists and is famed for providing a stage for exclusive collaborations and intimate, once-in-a-lifetime musical experiences. It is the crown in the Southbank Centre’s year-round programme of gigs and contemporary music which encompasses world-class venues including the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall and Purcell Room, and opportunities to showcase boundary-pushing, underground artists through its celebrated monthly club night *Concrete Lates* and rising talent through its *futuretense* series.

Grace Jones joins a roll-call of world-changing artists to head up the festival, including David Bowie, Yoko Ono, Patti Smith, Nick Cave, Lee Scratch Perry, M.I.A., and Robert Smith, and takes the baton from her former collaborator Nile Rodgers, who delivered the most critically acclaimed *Meltdown* to date in 2019.

The Southbank Centre has also announced its reopening dates as the venue prepares for a four-month summer of artistic activity. The iconic Royal Festival Hall will reopen on 28 May for socially-distanced concerts and outdoor stages will bring music back to the South Bank of the Thames. The first wave of programming will be announced in the coming weeks.

FESTIVAL LISTINGS - please visit

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/festivals-series/meltdown>

SOLANGE

Friday 10 June 2022, 7.30pm, Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall, Tickets available from £60
Grammy Award-winning singer/songwriter and visual artist Solange Knowles performs as part of Grace Jones' *Meltdown*.

LEE SCRATCH PERRY

Friday 10 June 2022, 7.30pm, Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall

Regarded with awe throughout the music world, Lee 'Scratch' Perry holds status as one of the most enduring and original reggae producers and artists of all time whose immeasurable influence lives on in the enduring sounds of Bob Marley & the Wailers who Perry produced, his own solo albums of the 1970s and 1980s and in today's evolution of dub and dubstep. The octogenarian returns to the Southbank Centre after curating *Meltdown* in 2003.

PEACHES

Saturday 11 June 2022, 7.30pm, Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall, For Ages 16+

The legendary feminist pop icon Peaches makes a return to the Royal Festival Hall with an explosive show specially crafted for Grace Jones' *Meltdown*. An iconic feminist musician, producer, director, and performance artist, Peaches has spent more than two decades pushing boundaries and breaking barriers, dramatically altering the landscape of popular culture as she forged a bold, sexually progressive path that's opened the doors for countless others to follow. Through music, art, film, theatre, television, and books, she has upended stereotypes and embraced taboos, challenging social norms and patriarchal power structures while championing LGBTQ rights and issues of gender and sexual identity with biting wit and fearless originality.

PARAORCHESTRA PRESENTS: THE LOVE UNLIMITED SYNTH ORCHESTRA

Wednesday 15 June 2022, 7.30pm, Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall, BSL interpreted

Fresh from their bring-the-house-down premiere at Glastonbury Festival 2019, The Love Unlimited Synth Orchestra comes to Grace Jones' *Meltdown*, joined by a stellar line-up of special guests, presenting their own take on Barry White's iconic bass and reinstating his overlooked genius as a composer. Conducted by Charles Hazlewood, performed by Paraorchestra – the world's first integrated ensemble of professional disabled and non-disabled musicians – and with arrangements by award-winning composer, Charlotte Harding.

OUMOU SANGARÉ

Wednesday 15 June 2022, 7.30pm, Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall

Oumou Sangaré's sound draws upon Malian tradition and her rich musical heritage while simultaneously looking to the future. Sangaré has become an emblem for African womanhood and a striking role model, campaigning fearlessly to improve the position of women in Mali. The power of her voice and the potency of her message will no doubt be heard as she brings her music to *Meltdown*.

MESHHELL NDEGEOCELLO

Thursday 16 June 2022, 7.30pm, Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall

Encompassing soul, spoken word, R&B, jazz, hip-hop, rock, all bound by a lyrical, spiritual search for love, justice, respect, resolution, and happiness, Meshell Ndegeocello defies the expectations imposed upon her. A bass player above all else, Ndegeocello brings her warm, fat, melodic groove to everything she does. Grace Jones' *Meltdown* will be no exception.

SKUNK ANANSIE

Friday 17 June 2022, 7.30pm, Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall

Skunk Anansie's cultural impact, politicism and musical and aesthetic radicalism propelled them from the backrooms of 1990s London, to huge success on the global scene, and a long-lived importance within contemporary culture. Their performance at *Meltdown* crowns an incredible 25th anniversary, marked with their most recent release: 25LIVE@25 - a staggering back catalogue of the 25 greatest

songs from the six studio albums they've made - which will be performed in the sumptuous acoustics of the Royal Festival Hall.

BAABA MAAL

Saturday 18 June 2022, 7.30pm, Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall

Since Senegalese superstar Baaba Maal found mainstream fame in the 1980s with his unique blend of traditional African rhythms and modern Western musical styles, he has released a series of acclaimed solo albums, toured the world numerous times, performed for President Obama, co-founded *Africa Utopia* festival at the Southbank Centre and his own annual *Blues du Fleuve* festival in northern Senegal, and most recently collaborated and performed on the multi award-winning soundtrack of the global hit movie *Black Panther*. He returns to the Royal Festival Hall for Grace Jones.

LEE FIELDS AND THE EXPRESSIONS

Saturday 18 June 2022, 7.30pm, Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall

Living legend Lee Fields has worked with everyone from B.B.King to Bobby Womack. Now in his early seventies he stands at the forefront of the soul revival, ushering in the most fruitful period of his career with his latest album *It Rains Love* receiving widespread acclaim. He joins Grace Jones' line-up in the Queen Elizabeth Hall with his band The Expressions.

GRACE JONES

Sunday 19 June 2022, 7.30pm, Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall

Famed for captivating audiences across the globe with her musicianship, extravagant outfits and wild performances, Miss Grace Jones is never one to disappoint a crowd. Closing her *Meltdown* in the stunning setting and world-class acoustics of the Royal Festival Hall, she promises a very special live show unlike any other. More to be revealed.

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 is overseen by the Southbank Centre's Head of Contemporary Music, Bengi Ünsal, and produced by Rhodri Jones.

About the Southbank Centre

The Southbank Centre is the UK's largest arts centre and one of the UK's top five visitor attractions, 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 four Resident Orchestras (London Philharmonic Orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra, London Sinfonietta and Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment) and four Associate

Orchestras (Aurora Orchestra, BBC Concert Orchestra, Chineke! Orchestra and National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain).

Gigs & Contemporary Music at the Southbank Centre

The Southbank Centre delivers a year-round programme of more than 200 gigs and contemporary music performances across its three main venues - the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall and Purcell Room - its public spaces and pop-up stages. The annual and award-winning *Meltdown* festival launched in 1993 and is the longest-running artist-curated music festival in the world, each year inviting a different cultural figure to act as curator. Previous curators include David Bowie, Yoko Ono, M.I.A and in 2019 Nile Rodgers. As well as fifty years of presenting global stars such as Frank Sinatra, Joni Mitchell, Jeff Buckley, Grace Jones, Nina Simone, Pink Floyd, The Cure and Nine Inch Nails, it gives a stage to the best rising talent each Friday for free in its *futuretense* series. The monthly club night *Concrete Lates* showcases underrepresented talent in international underground electronic music. And its outdoor summer stages entertain thousands of members of the public every year for free.