

SOUTHBANK CENTRE

Press Release

Date: Friday 22 September 2023

Contact: louise.gilbert@southbankcentre.co.uk; naomi.o'toole@southbankcentre.co.uk

Images: [HERE](#)

Listings: [HERE](#)

This press release is available in a range of accessible formats. Please email press@southbankcentre.co.uk

Southbank Centre presents its 2023 Winter show line-up

**Nutcracker, Bluey's Big Play, Christmas Actually,
The House with Chicken Legs, Reuben Kaye: The Butch is Back,
Adam and Joe: The Christmas Podcast Live and more**



Reuben Kaye credit Jax Moussa / *Nutcracker* credit Mark Senior / *The House with Chicken Legs* credit Rah Petherbridge

This Winter, the Southbank Centre presents a packed programme of exciting new shows for everyone to enjoy featuring a mix of family events, cabaret, dance, music and comedy. The ambitious programme welcomes the opening of a brand new pop-up venue at the Southbank Centre - the Tuff Nutt Jazz Club - created especially for *Nutcracker*.

Winter Light's colourful light installations by contemporary artists return to bring a warm glow to the South Bank site and delicious food and warming drinks will be served at the famous Winter Market. The free events programme and more information on the Winter Festival will be announced at a later date. Shows taking place during the Winter season are:

[Nutcracker](#)

Tuff Nutt Jazz Club, 28 Oct – 6 Jan

Underbelly, Francesca Moody Productions and the Southbank Centre with Rachel Edwards and Winkler Smalberg, present the world premiere production of *Nutcracker*. Directed and choreographed by Olivier Award winner Drew McOnie this new version of the festive classic is playful, mischievous and a lot of fun. Dive into a glittering wonderland head on and prepare to reimagine everything with a

jazz infused twist. The McOnie Company's *Nutcracker* is a thrilling reinvention of the timeless holiday classic. From the moment of your arrival at London's hottest new pop-up venue everything familiar pulses with a new rhythm. The Tuff Nutt Jazz Club at the Southbank Centre is a newly transformed music and performance space, putting audiences at the centre of one of the coolest jazz clubs in town. Tchaikovsky's world-famous score is reimagined by multi award-winning jazz artist Cassie Kinoshi for a swinging onstage jazz band, with dancers moving in and amongst the cabaret style seating bringing the storytelling and wild-spirited adventure of the *Nutcracker* to life. The cast for *Nutcracker* includes Amonik Melaco (Action Man), Sam Salter (Clive) and Patricia Zhou (Sugarplum) with Chanelle Anthony, Christie Crosson, Tim Hodges, Lukas Hunt and Rachel Muldoon. *Nutcracker* will be composed by Cassie Kinoshi with additional music by Rio Kai, venue and set design by Soutra Gilmour, costume design by Ryan Dawson Laight, music supervision by Benjamin Kwasi Burrell, lighting design by Joshie Hariette, sound design by Simon Baker, and casting by Will Burton CDG. Following performances of *Nutcracker* on Thursday to Sunday, audiences are invited to continue their evening at the Tuff Nutt Jazz Club with live sessions from leading music artists playing into the night. Further details to be announced.

[Christmas Actually](#)

Royal Festival Hall, 7 – 11 Dec

Senbla and Roast Productions in partnership with Comic Relief present *Christmas Actually* a brand-new festive show curated by Richard Curtis (*Love Actually*, *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, *Notting Hill*, *Bridget Jones' Diary*) and directed by Daniel Raggett (*Accidental Death of an Anarchist*, *West End*; *ANNA X*, *West End*). A festive feast for the senses, this witty and enchanting evening will capture all of the fun and laughter of Christmas through a treasure trove of entertainment. Family and friends are invited to come together for the ultimate Christmas variety show with a celebrity line up performing live music, Christmas stories, poetry and comedy.

[The House with Chicken Legs](#)

Queen Elizabeth Hall, 13 – 30 Dec

Les Enfants Terribles and HOME Manchester present the London Premiere of *The House with Chicken Legs*. Based on Sophie Anderson's much-loved novel, the story follows Marinka, a young girl trying to find her feet when her home is quite literally pulled from under her. Featuring puppets, projection and live music, the show is funny, thought-provoking and full of life as it deftly navigates the complexities of loss from a whole new perspective. *The House with Chicken Legs* is perfect for families, and for children aged 9+.

[Reuben Kaye: The Butch is Back](#)

Purcell Room, 8 – 30 Dec

Award winning international sensation Reuben Kaye takes up residency in the Purcell Room with *The Butch is Back*, providing London audiences with the last chance to see this hit show. Reuben explores the relationship between fathers and sons through his connection to his own father as a queer, creative child and now, how it feels to process his childhood as a cabaret superstar. Drawing links between masculinity and the apocalypse, the show tears apart the social phenomenon of coming out. Reuben is backed by his band and plays with a myriad of genres, styles and songs from Stormzy to Geri Halliwell, Bobby Gentry, Reba McIntyre, The Rolling Stones and Janelle Monae, with Reuben barely drawing breath for the entire evening.

Bluey's Big Play

Royal Festival Hall, 20 Dec – 7 Jan

Bluey's Big Play, a brand-new theatrical adaptation of the BAFTA & Emmy® award-winning children's television series produced by Ludo Studio which airs on Disney+ and CBeebies, comes to the Royal Festival Hall for the first time. With an original story by *Bluey* creator Joe Brumm, and new music by *Bluey* composer, Joff Bush. Audiences of all ages will get to see Bluey, her younger sister Bingo and Mum & Dad Bandit and Chilli, as they've never seen them before, as Bluey & her family embark on their first live theatre show, featuring brilliantly created puppets, live actors and iconic sets.

Comedy and classical music

Comedian and writer Adam Buxton and his old friend director Joe Cornish take to the Royal Festival Hall stage for the first ever live recording of their annual Christmas podcast - **Adam and Joe: The Christmas Podcast Live** (12 Dec). The Resident Orchestras also feature as part of our Winter Festival. **E.T. in Concert with the Philharmonia Orchestra** invites audiences to experience the heart-warming 1982 Spielberg masterpiece like never before, as John Williams' Academy Award-winning score is performed in sync to the film projected on a huge HD screen (13 Dec). Themes from favourite Christmas films including *Elf*, *The Holiday*, *The Grinch*, *Miracle on 34th Street* are played by the London Philharmonic Orchestra, hosted by Mark Kermode in **Christmas in Tinseltown** (14 Dec). Audiences are invited to sing along to favourite festive classics with host Yolanda Brown and a sumptuous symphony orchestra in **Christmas Classics**. Performing on different days, the Philharmonia Orchestra is accompanied by the Philharmonia Chorus, and the London Philharmonic Orchestra by the London Philharmonic Choir. Both are also joined by the London Youth Choirs and West End singer Marisha Wallace (15 - 17 Dec).

ENDS

Tickets are on sale. www.southbankcentre.co.uk

Join the conversation:

@southbankcentre

NOTES TO EDITORS

For more images, press releases, interviews, press tickets and more information please contact:

Nutcracker

Tuff Nutt Jazz Club, 28 Oct – 6 Jan

(the new pop-up venue is located at street level on the Belvedere Road side of the Royal Festival Hall)

Jo Allan jo@joallanpr.com

Kitty Greenleaf kitty@joallanpr.com

Christmas Actually

Royal Festival Hall, 7 – 11 Dec

Chloe Pritchard-Gordon chloe@aboutgracepr.com

Laura Myers laura@aboutgracepr.com

Reuben Kaye: The Butch is Back

Purcell Room, 8 – 30 Dec

Miriam Attwood miriam@storytellingpr.com

Adam and Joe: The Christmas Podcast Live

Royal Festival Hall, 12 Dec

Magdalene Bird magda@pbjmanagement.co.uk

The House with Chicken Legs

Queen Elizabeth Hall, 13 – 30 Dec

Alison Duguid alison@aduguidpr.co.uk

E.T. in Concert with the Philharmonia Orchestra

Royal Festival Hall, 13 Dec

Clair Chamberlain clair@breadandbutterpr.uk

Christmas in Tinseltown

Royal Festival Hall, 14 Dec

Ruth Haines ruth.haines@lpo.org.uk

Christmas Classics

Royal Festival Hall, 15 - 17 Dec

Clair Chamberlain clair@breadandbutterpr.uk

Ruth Haines ruth.haines@lpo.org.uk

Bluey's Big Play

Royal Festival Hall, 20 Dec – 7 Jan

Becky Martin becky@bm-pr.co.uk

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



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

