SOUTHBANK CENTRE

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Winter at the Southbank Centre & December 2025 Listings



L-R Clockwise: *Southbank Centre Winter Market,* Image © Adam Luszniak; *Handel's Messiah*, Image © Raymond Gubbay; *Sh!t Theatre: EVITA TOO*; Image © Lizzie Lawless; *Top Hat*, Image © Johan Persso;.

Winter cheer returns to the **Southbank Centre** with a December full of festive events, twinkling light installations and warming food and drink. ***Bluey's Big Play*** returns to the Royal Festival Hall by popular demand (18 Dec – 11 Jan), **Sh!t Theatre** tells the wild story of the often forgotten former Argentine president Isabel Perón with typical hilarity in ***EVITA TOO*** (9 – 31 Dec). TV's favourite doctors **Dr Chris** and **Dr Xand** travel back to the age of the dinosaurs in ***Operation Ouch: Quest for the Jurassic Fart!*** (22 Dec – 2 Jan), and a stunning stage adaptation of the classic film ***Top Hat*** swings into the Queen Elizabeth Hall featuring sparkling music and dancing (12 Dec – 17 Jan).

Our popular ***Winter Market*** returns throughout December, lining the river Thames with pop-up bars, street food stalls and independent craft traders (3 Nov - 4 Jan). Under the bridge, we're introducing ***Bar Humbug***, a festive sing-a-long bar with a Bavarian twist. Expect live music, DJs and communal singalongs through to the New Year. Opposite the Queen Elizabeth Hall, right on the river, ***Fire & Fromage*** are back with cheesy indulgence, warming drinks and cosy riverside vibes. For the first time, the ***Queen Elizabeth Roof Garden*** will be open throughout the winter months, transforming into a destination for mulled wine and warming drinks, nestled above the bustle of central London.

Festive free events are back this winter, including returning favourite ***Five Go Jiving*** (24 Dec) our Christmas Eve swing dance extravaganza, and ***Kids Countdown***, a fabulous daytime New Years celebration for the whole family (31 Dec). The talented young jazz musicians of **Tomorrow's Warriors** unite for a special winter concert in ***Tomorrow's Warriors Extraordinary Winter Showcase*** (14 Dec), and ***Creative Encounters*** continues into December with ***Mingle & Mould***, an opportunity to shape connection through conversation, your hands and some clay (17 Dec).

In the perfect antidote to the dark festive nights, ***Winter Light*** will again transform the Southbank Centre into a dazzling display of public art for all to explore (1 Nov – 18 Jan). Illuminated by a trove of glowing installations that play with light and colour, this year's presentation welcomes visitors to discover six new additions by **Lee Broom**, **Liz West**, **France Lise McGurn**, **Samia Halaby**, **Rafaël Rozendaal** and **Otecki** alongside much-loved favourites from **Nathaniel Rackowe**, **Squire and Partners**, **Jakob Kvist**, **David Batchelor** and **Tavares Strachan**.

Christmas Classics returns, bringing with it the chance to celebrate and sing along to all the festive favourites with the London Philharmonic Choir and the Philharmonia Chorus (13 – 14 Dec), Southbank Centre resident the **Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment** presents the awe-inspiring majesty of Handel's Messiah alongside the Philharmonia Chorus (12 Dec), and acclaimed harpsichordist Mahan Esfahani explores the music of the English Renaissance's greatest composers in ***Mahan Esfahani: Byrd, Dowland & Gibbons*** (3 Dec).

Led Zeppelin founder **Robert Plant** presents his latest album with his new band ***Saving Grace*** in a special Royal Festival Hall concert (11 Dec), the iconic **Kathy Sledge** showcases her trendsetting style and musical flair in ***Sister Sledge feat. Kathy Sledge*** (5 Dec), and Anglo-French avant-pop icons ***Stereolab*** offer the chance to see one of the most innovative and original bands of the 1990s live in concert (6 Dec).

In the Hayward Gallery, ***Gilbert and George: 21ST CENTURY PICTURES*** continues (7 Oct – 11 Jan), while ***Koestler Arts: Night Owls and Abstractions*** concludes, giving a final opportunity to see the annual exhibition that showcases the artistic range and talent of people in criminal justice settings (31 Oct – 14 Dec).

EXHIBITIONS

Literature & Spoken Word | **Visual Arts** | **Free Programme** | **Iris Colomb: Try! Try! Try! Again!**
Thu 24 Jul – Sun 4 Jan, Tue: 12 noon – 6pm, Wed – Sun: 12 noon – 8pm, National Poetry Library, Level 5, Blue Side, Royal Festival Hall. Free. For ages 16+.

Visual Arts | **Gilbert & George: 21ST CENTURY PICTURES**
Tue 7 Oct 2025 – Sun 11 Jan 2026, Tue – Fri, 10am – 6pm, Sat, 10am – 8pm, Sun, 10am – 6pm, Closed on Mondays. Hayward Gallery. Tickets £20. There is no age guidance for this exhibition but please be prepared to have age appropriate conversations with children about the content of the work.

Visual Arts | **Free Programme** | **Val Lee: The Presence of Solitude**
Tue 7 Oct 2025 – Sun 11 Jan 2026, Tue – Fri, 10am – 6pm, Sat, 10am – 8pm, Sun, 10am – 6pm, Closed on Mondays. HENI Project Space, Hayward Gallery. Free.

Visual Arts | **Free Programme** | **Koestler Arts: Night Owls and Abstractions**
Fri 31 Oct – Sun 14 Dec, Spirit Level, Level 1, Royal Festival Hall. Free.

EVENTS

Visual Arts | **Supporters Tours: Gilbert & George**
Tue 2 Dec, 6.30pm, Hayward Gallery. Free for patrons and supporter's circle members. For ages 18+.

Comedy | **I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue**
Tue 2 Dec, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £20 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 14+. Under-18s must be accompanied by an adult.

Classical Music | **Mahan Esfahani: Byrd, Dowland & Gibbons**
Wed 3 Dec, 7pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets from £17 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 7+.

Literature & Spoken Word | **Special Edition: Red Bean Poetry**
Wed 3 Dec, 8pm, National Poetry Library, Level 5, Blue Side, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £9 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 16+.

Gigs | **Free Programme** | **futuretense: JoeJas + RetroPxssy**
Thu 4 Dec, 6pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer. Free. For all ages. Under-12s must be accompanied by an adult.

Literature & Spoken Word | **The Orwell Lecture 2025**
Thu 4 Dec, 7.30pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets from £20 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 16+.

Literature & Spoken Word | **Stadio Live**
Thu 4 Dec, 7.45pm, Purcell Room. Tickets from £15 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 16+.

Literature & Spoken Word | **Families & Young People** | **Rug Rhymes: Autumn**

Fri 5 Dec, National Poetry Library. Tickets from £4. Admits one adult and one child. For ages 0 – 5. Under-12s must be accompanied by an adult on our site.

Gigs | **The Vernon Spring**
Fri 5 Dec, 7.30pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets from £22 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 14+.

Gigs | **Sister Sledge Featuring Kathy Sledge**
Fri 5 Dec, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £37 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 14+.

Classical Music | **ZRI: Schubert at the Red Hedgehog Tavern (Double Bill)**
Fri 5 Dec, 9pm, Purcell Room. Tickets £22 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 16+.

Classical Music | **After Dark: ZRI – Cellar Sessions**
Fri 5 Dec, 10.30pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer. Tickets from £12 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 7+.

Open Doors | **Families & Young People** | **Free Programme** | **Relaxed Sessions: Singing Together**
Sat 6 Dec, 11am, The Clore Ballroom, Level 2, Royal Festival Hall. Free. For ages 5+.

Open Doors | **Families & Young People** | **Free Programme** | **Saturday Sessions: Singing Together**
Sat 6 Dec, 1.30pm, The Clore Ballroom, Level 2, Royal Festival Hall. Free. For ages 5 – 11.

Open Doors | **Families & Young People** | **Free Programme** | **Southbank Centre Youth Voices Winter Showcase**
Sat 6 Dec, 3pm, The Clore Ballroom, Level 2, Royal Festival Hall. Free. For all ages.

Visual Arts | **British Sign Language Tours: Gilbert & George**
Sat 6 Dec, 5pm, Hayward Gallery. Tickets from £8.

Gigs | **Stereolab**
Sat 6 Dec, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £34.50 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 14+.

Gigs | **Kate Rusby: Christmas Is Merry Tour**
Sun 7 Dec, 6pm, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £40 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 14+.

Classical Music | **Claire M Singer x LCO: Gleann Ciùin**
Sun 7 Dec, 7pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets from £17 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 7+.

Performance & Dance | **Sh!t Theatre: EVITA TOO**
Tue 9 Dec – Wed 31 Dec, Tue – Sat: 7.45pm, Sun: 6pm, Wed 31 Dec: 2.30pm, Purcell Room. Tickets from £30 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 15+. No performances 22 – 26 Dec.
PR contact: kate@katemorleypr.com

Open Doors | **Free Programme** | **Creative Encounters: Spice-Blending Stories**
Wed 10 Dec, 6pm, The Clore Ballroom, Level 2, Royal Festival Hall. Free. For ages 12+.

Gigs | **Free Programme** | **futuretense: GESELLE + KeepVibesNear**
Thu 11 Dec, 6pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer. Free. For all ages.

Gigs | **Robert Plant's Saving Grace**
Thu 11 Dec, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £51.50 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 14+.

Open Doors | Families & Young People | Free Programme | WordPlay: Ages 0 – 2
Fri 12 Dec, 10.15am, The Clore Ballroom, Level 2, Royal Festival Hall. Free. For ages 0 – 2.

Open Doors | Families & Young People | Free Programme | WordPlay: Ages 3 – 5
Fri 12 Dec, 11.30am, The Clore Ballroom, Level 2, Royal Festival Hall. Free. For ages 3 – 5.

Classical Music | Handel's Messiah
Fri 12 Dec, 7pm, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £32 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 7+.

Performance & Dance | Top Hat
Fri 12 Dec – Sat 17 Jan, 2pm & 7.30pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets from £27 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 8+.
PR contact: Ellie.Maltby@storyhousepr.co.uk

Classical Music | Christmas Classics
Sat 13 Dec – Sun 14 Dec, 3pm & 7.30pm on Sat, 1pm on Sun, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £32 + £3.50 booking fee. For all ages.

Gigs | Free Programme | Tomorrow's Warriors Extraordinary Winter Showcase
Sun 14 Dec, 5pm, The Clore Ballroom, Level 2, Royal Festival Hall. Free. For all ages.

Open Doors | Free Programme | Creative Encounters: Mingle & Mould
Wed 17 Dec, 6pm, The Clore Ballroom, Level 2, Royal Festival Hall. Free. For ages 12+.

Performance & Dance | Families & Young People | Bluey's Big Play
Thu 18 Dec – Sun 11 Jan, multiple times, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £17 + £3.50 booking fee. For all ages.
PR Contact: becky@bm-pr.co.uk

Open Doors | Free Programme | Mix and Move: Winter Special
Fri 19 Dec, 3pm, The Clore Ballroom, Level 2, Royal Festival Hall. Free. For all ages.

Performance & Dance | Families & Young People | Operation Ouch: Quest for the Jurassic Fart!
Mon 22 Dec – Fri 2 Jan, multiple times, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £24 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 5+.
PR contact: amanda@amandamalpass.com

Gigs | Free Programme | Five Go Jiving
Wed 24 Dec, 1.30pm, The Clore Ballroom, Level 2, Royal Festival Hall. Free. For all ages.

Families & Young People | Free Programme | Kids' Countdown
Wed 31 Dec, 10.30am, The Clore Ballroom, Level 2, Royal Festival Hall. Free. For all ages.

FOOD, DRINK & SHOPPING

Food, Drink & Shopping | Fire & Fromage
Thu 30 Oct - Sun 4 Jan, Mon – Fri: 12 noon – 11pm, Sat - Sun: 11am - 11pm, Queen's Walk.

Food, Drink & Shopping | **Southbank Centre Winter Market**
Mon 3 Nov - Sun 4 Jan, Mon – Sun: 11am – 10pm, Queen's Walk. Closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Eve. For all ages.

Food, Drink & Shopping | **Bar Humbug**
Mon 3 Nov - Sun 4 Jan, Mon – Sun: 11am – 10pm, Queen's Walk. Closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Eve.

Food, Drink & Shopping | **Roof Garden Bar & Kitchen**
Thu – Fri, 3pm – 9pm, Sat – Sun, 12pm – 9pm, Sun, 12pm - 6pm. Until Sun 28 Dec. For all ages.

Food, Drink & Shopping | **Seventy5th Balcony Bar**
Tues – Sun: 10am – 10.30pm, Royal Festival Hall, Level 5, closed Mon.

Food, Drink & Shopping | **Southbank Centre Food Market**
Every Fri – Sun, 12pm, Southbank Centre Square. For all ages.

Food, Drink & Shopping | **Festival Bar & Kitchen**
Tue - Sun 10am – 10.30pm. Royal Festival Hall, Level 2, Closed Mon.

Food, Drink & Shopping | **Southbank Centre Shops**
Find gifts for lovers of art, music and big ideas. Shop in-store or online. Royal Festival Hall, Mandela Walk, Hayward Gallery. Tue – Sun: 11.30am – 7pm. Closed Mon.

Food, Drink & Shopping | **Hayward Gallery Shop for Gilbert & George**
Tue 7 October, Hayward Gallery Shop and Online: Tue – Fri, 10am – 6pm, Sat, 10am – 8pm, Sun, 10am – 6pm. Closed Mon.

HAYWARD GALLERY TOURING EXHIBITIONS AROUND THE UK

Visual Arts | **Material Worlds: Contemporary Artists and Textiles**
Fri 19 Sep 2025 – Sun 11 Jan 2026, The Wilson Gallery, Cheltenham. For timings and tickets, please see venue website.

Visual Arts | **Acts of Creation: On Art and Motherhood**
Sat 27 Sept 2025 – 11 Jan 2026, VISUAL, Carlow. For timings and tickets, please see venue website.

Visual Arts | **After the End of History: British Working Class Photography 1989 – 2024**
Fri 3 October – Sat 13 December 2025, ffotogallery, Cardiff. For timings and tickets, please see venue website.

Visual Arts | **Paula Rego: Visions of English Literature**
Sat 18 Oct 2025 – Sun 18 Jan 2026, Norwich Castle Museum, Norwich. For timings and tickets, please see venue website.

Visual Arts | **To Improvise A Mountain: Lynette Yiadom-Boakye Curates**

Sat 25 Oct 2025 – Sun 8 Feb 2026, MK Gallery, Milton Keynes. For timings and tickets, please see venue website.

Visual Arts | **Linder: Danger Came Smiling | on tour**
Fri 21 November 2025 – Sun 1 March 2026, Glynn Vivian Art Gallery, Swansea. For timings and tickets, please see venue website.

#ENDS#