

**SOUTHBANK  
CENTRE**

# MELTDOWN

**Press Release**

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**Artist images:** available to download [here](#)

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## **Southbank Centre unveils additional artists performing at Little Simz' Meltdown**



L-R: Tiwa Savage © Daniel Essien; James Blake © Thibaut Grevet; Mahalia © ZADATSTUDIO

The **Southbank Centre** has announced more artists performing at **Little Simz' Meltdown**. Taking place this summer from **Thursday 12 - Sunday 22 June**, Little Simz has curated an electrifying programme of internationally acclaimed artists that celebrate fearless expression and defy musical genre.

The GRAMMY®-nominated R&B singer-songwriter **Mahalia** will play a simmering set in the Royal Festival Hall on the first Friday night of the festival (13 June), encapsulating self-confidence and embracing her new music era with her signature 'luvergirl' energy. The queen of afrobeats and MTV EMA-winning Nigerian singer **Tiwa Savage** will continue the party atmosphere on Saturday 14 June, with a set that will celebrate her legacy as one of Africa's most influential artists in recent years.

**BADBADNOTGOOD**, the two-time GRAMMY®-winning Canadian instrumental band joins the bill with their seamless blend of jazz and hip-hop (16 June). Long term collaborators of Tyler the Creator, Daniel Caesar and Kendrick Lamar, the band's rich, soulful grooves continue to push the parameters of jazz and hip-hop music.

The acclaimed Ivor Novello and Mercury Prize Award-winning **James Blake** will bring his untouchable musicianship to the Royal Festival Hall stage in a solo piano performance (20 June). Recently releasing his *CMYK 002 – Let Her Know EP* Blake has operated as the enigmatic engine behind some of the most influential albums of the 21st century including Beyoncé, Dave, Frank Ocean, Kendrick Lamar and Rosalía.

The **Queen Elizabeth Hall** will play host to a rich selection of genre-bending artists including the London-born saxophonist **Nubya Garcia** (19 June) who will share her magnetic compositions, melding jazz, classical, dub and R&B. Garcia's most recent album, *Odyssey*, is a majestic feat garnering acclaim for her staggering versatility.

**MEGA** aka Megaishername will unleash a captivating vocal performance in the Queen Elizabeth Hall (20 June). Her powerful *Chariot* spirit boldly explores the depths of vulnerability and the heights of newfound empowerment. Rising star **Jon Poppii** will support MEGA having become a viral sensation with his soulful rendition of "Past Lives" by BØRNS.

In addition, performing in the **Purcell Room** will be the Illinois singer-songwriter **Kara Jackson**, known for her rich, cavernous vocals and her seamless blend of emotional folk and poetic alt-country music (17 June).

These artists join an already outstanding line-up at Little Simz' Meltdown. Alongside Little Simz' one-off performance with **Chineke! Orchestra**, this year's lineup includes **Ghetts**, **Jon Batiste**, **Lola Young**, **Sasha Keable**, **The Streets** and **Yukimi** with support from **BINA**.

Details will be announced in due course on the free cultural programme taking place across both weekends of the festival, further reflecting the Southbank Centre's ongoing mission to support London's diverse creative communities and open the doors to everyone to enjoy.

**Commenting on curating this year's Meltdown, Little Simz said:** *"My team and I have prepared eleven days of art, music, workshops and more. So many incredible artists have curated this festival so it's a true honour to be a part of it. Thank you to the Southbank Centre for having me. Meltdown 2025 the Simz way is going to be epic. I'll see you there."*

**Jane Beese, Head of Contemporary Music, Southbank Centre said:** *"Little Simz' first taste of what's to come from her Meltdown hugely embodies the wealth of influences and inspirations across her work. Ranging from jazz, hip hop, R&B, electronic and soul with a line up of both renowned legends alongside the creators of the future, this is going to be London's go-to festival this summer."*

**Mark Ball, Artistic Director, Southbank Centre added:** *"Hot on the heels of her brilliant line up for the first wave announcements, it's thrilling to see more global talent play alongside homegrown artists and to see Little Simz musical curiosity and imagination take full shape."*

Tickets for the newly added shows will go on sale to members on Wednesday 9 April at 10:00am, and to the general public on Friday 11 April at 10:00am via [southbankcentre.co.uk](http://southbankcentre.co.uk).

# ENDS #

## EVENT LISTINGS

### [The Streets](#)

Thursday 12 June, Royal Festival Hall, 7pm

### [Mahalia](#)

Friday 13 June, Royal Festival Hall, 7pm

### [Tiwa Savage](#)

Saturday 14 June, Royal Festival Hall, 7pm

### [Sasha Keable](#)

Saturday 14 June, Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7pm

### [BADBADNOTGOOD](#)

Monday 16 June, Royal Festival Hall, 7pm

### [Lola Young](#)

Tuesday 17 June, Royal Festival Hall, 7pm

### [Kara Jackson](#)

Tuesday 17 June, Purcell Room, 7:45pm

### [Ghetts](#)

Wednesday 18 June, Royal Festival Hall, 7pm

### [Yukimi & BINA.](#)

Wednesday 18 June, Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7pm

### [Nubya Garcia](#)

Thursday 19 June, Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7pm

### [MEGA & Jon Poppii](#)

Friday 20 June, Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7pm

### [James Blake](#)

Friday 20 June, Royal Festival Hall, 7pm

### [Jon Batiste](#)

Saturday 21 June, Royal Festival Hall, 7pm

### [Little Simz & Chineke! Orchestra](#)

Sunday 22 June, Royal Festival Hall, 7pm

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**For more information:**

Press Office – [press@southbankcentre.co.uk](mailto:press@southbankcentre.co.uk)

**Images:** available to download [here](#)

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#meltdownfest

**About Meltdown**

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: Chaka Khan, Christine and the Queens, Grace Jones, 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 and Grace Jones' 2022 Meltdown were both nominated for Music Week Awards Festival of the Year with Smith's also winning the AIM Independent Music Awards 'Act of Independence' Award.

**About the Southbank Centre**

The Southbank Centre is the UK's largest arts centre, occupying 11 acres along the river and its 4 venues anchor 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. 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)



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