

SOUTHBANK CENTRE

Press Release

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Press images: [HERE](#)

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Ed Gamble & James Acaster's Off Menu podcast to make its debut at the Royal Festival Hall

As comedy returns to the Southbank Centre, **The Guilty Feminist Live!**, **The Horne Section** and **Jenny Eclair** are also announced.



Caption: Deborah Frances-White (photo: Chris Floyd); Off Menu (photo: Paul Gilbey); The Horne Section (photo: press).

The Southbank Centre today announces that for the first time ever, Ed Gamble and James Acaster's hugely popular 'Off Menu' podcast is set to make its live debut at the Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall on Friday 30 July 2021. The centre also announces the return of 'The Guilty Feminist: Live with Deborah Frances-White' (10 & 11 Sep, Queen Elizabeth Hall), 'The Horne Section: That's How I Like My Tour' (26 Nov, QEH) and 'Jenny Eclair: Sixty! (FFS!)' (11 Feb 2022, QEH).

Since launching in December 2018, the award-winning **Off Menu** has become one of the biggest podcasts in the country, regularly topping the podcast charts and being downloaded over 55 million times. In the podcast's first ever live show, comedians Ed Gamble and James Acaster speak to a special guest to be announced about their favourite starter, main course, side dish, drink and dessert.

The comedy programme continues with **Deborah Frances-White** who brings a live reimaging of her hit podcast, 'The Guilty Feminist'. With over 70 million downloads since its launch in late 2015, the podcast sees Frances-White discuss the noble goals of 21st-century feminists with her guests, while confessing their insecurities, hypocrisies and paradoxes. This live show of the comedy phenomenon includes stand-up, music, local guests and a few special surprises. **The Horne Section** returns to the Southbank Centre for their one and only 2021 tour, bringing their trademark comedy, improvisation and music from their hit BBC Radio 4 show. The evening of comedy and outstanding musical performances is led by Alex Horne, the creator and co-host of the Bafta- and Emmy-nominated 'Taskmaster'. With her latest touring show, award-winning comic **Jenny Eclair** confronts "a new

decade of decrepitude" in 'Sixty! (FFS!)'. Eclair's return to the Southbank Centre follows the success of her acclaimed 2016 stand-up show 'How To Be A Middle Aged Woman (Without Going Insane)'.

Pax Lowey, Comedy Programmer, the Southbank Centre, said: "It's so wonderful to be welcoming comedy lovers back to the Royal Festival Hall and the Queen Elizabeth Hall later this year — and we're incredibly excited to open the comedy programme with the first ever live recording of Off Menu with Ed Gamble and James Acaster. After such a turbulent year, we're all in need of a good laugh."

Comedian James Acaster, said: "I can't wait to finally meet Ed and The Great Benito in person. It's gonna be a night to remember."

Tickets go on sale to Members on Thursday 24 June at 10am and on general sale Friday 25 June at 10am.

Previously announced weekend of programming curated by Nish Kumar

Comedian Nish Kumar is one of nine guest curators set to programme artistic activity on the outdoor Riverside Stage across weekends from 4 July to 29 August, as part of the *Summer Reunion* programme, free of charge to the public.

Nish's weekend celebrates how comedy has adapted throughout the pandemic. With a look at the past, the present and the future, Nish blends a programme of comedy, cabaret and theatre together, platforming new and established acts.

Nish Kumar (curator from 23 – 25 July), said: "I'm excited – I've always seen myself as a curator, by which I mean I enjoy inflicting my taste on people regardless of their interests. We've got some very exciting plans. You'd better believe it. Amongst other things, I'm in negotiations with the guy that owns the Tupac hologram. I'm hoping that my programme will cut a broad swathe through the arts and also have a healthy dose of comedy which as we all know is not "art". I think the most important thing is to celebrate us being able to be together again!"

The curatorial artists are **Anoushka Shankar, Dennis Bovell, Scottee, Nish Kumar, Jess Thom, Amrou Al-Kadhi, Nubya Garcia**, ZooNation's **Jade Hackett in collaboration with DJ Walde** and **Shingai**. For more information see the press release [here](#).

Keeping audiences safe on site

As we welcome visitors back, our number one priority is the safety, health and wellbeing of visitors and staff, so we have introduced a number of measures to help everyone feel confident. These include QR codes at entrances which link to NHS Test and Trace, reduced visitor numbers, social distancing, wearing face coverings, physically distanced seating, fresh air circulation measures and regular and thorough cleaning. We will continue to review and manage any risks and respond to any changes in government guidance. Full details of our Covid-secure measures can be found on the Southbank Centre website [here](#).

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For further press information please contact:

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Join the Conversation:

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FURTHER EVENT INFORMATION

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. The 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).

About the Southbank Centre's *Summer Reunion*

From 19 May – 30 August, the Southbank Centre presents *Summer Reunion*, a four-month season of art, culture and entertainment providing opportunities for people to reconnect and reunite across the site following the venue's year-long closure. On 30 April the popular weekly street food market returns, alongside riverside pop-ups; the Hayward Gallery welcomes visitors back on 19 May for two major exhibitions with social-distancing in place in line with government guidance; the Royal Festival Hall reopens on 28 May alongside the National Poetry Library; and the Queen Elizabeth Hall and Purcell Room reopen later this summer. 15 consecutive weekends of free programming on the Riverside Stage Terrace platform diverse, home-grown talent, while free public art and poetry from the likes of Samson Kambalu, Ilke Gers and Linton Kwesi Johnson bring the outside spaces to life, alongside the popular Queen Elizabeth Hall Roof Garden. The reopening of the Southbank Centre and *Summer Reunion* programme is made possible thanks to the repayable loan from the government's Culture Recovery Fund.

Southbank Centre Re-opening

Hayward Gallery: 19 May 2021

Royal Festival Hall: 28 May 2021

National Poetry Library: 28 May 2021

Queen Elizabeth Hall: August 2021

Purcell Room: September 2021

Opening times for venues can be found on the [Southbank Centre website](#).



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