

SOUTHBANK CENTRE

Press Release

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Images: [HERE](#)

Video: [HERE](#)

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Thousands of schoolchildren in Newcastle, Sunderland, Norwich, Kendal and London become published writers with Sita Brahmachari

- 2500 school children across the UK will become real-life published authors with the Southbank Centre's national creative writing project, *Imagine a Story*.
- Children will bring their own writing to **Sita Brahmachari**'s newest story, *Rewilding Dream*.
- **Dominique Palmer** and **Love Ssega** perform live readings of the books in Newcastle, Sunderland, Norwich, Kendal and London in a national tour from 28 June - 14 July.



L-R: Imagine a Story performance © Belinda Lawley; Sita Brahmachari © Martin Levenson; Imagine a Story, Norwich © Deb Burrows.

Over 2500 Key Stage 2 schoolchildren in Newcastle, Norwich, Kendal, Sunderland and London will work with award-winning children's author Sita Brahmachari and Caribbean-English illustrator Lucy Farfort to publish their versions of new environmental tale, *Rewilding Dream*. Printed copies will be shared with each child, meaning thousands of children across the UK will become published authors.

Rewilding Dream is an environmental tale about children's ideas making the biggest changes and creating the future of our planet. The story of fairness, justice, protecting the environment and daring to imagine a brighter future centres on the characters, who find creative ways to express themselves, find their voice and become the storytellers and leaders of tomorrow.

Imagine a Story is the Southbank Centre's free creative writing project for schools across the UK, which encourages young people to see themselves in their writing and opens up access to the arts. This year's *Imagine a Story* project is inspired by Southbank Centre's *Planet Summer*, a landmark multi-artform season that explores themes of care, hope, connection and activism in response to the climate emergency.

Marie Ortinau, Creative Learning Manager at the Southbank Centre, said: "*Imagine a Story doesn't just get children excited about storytelling; it also gets them to imagine themselves as authors. In the fifth year of the project, Imagine a Story asks children to think about the environment, a major concern for young people today and, like the characters in Rewilding Dream, dare to imagine brighter futures.*"

Following a brief from the author, schools across the UK complete one part of *Rewilding Dream*. Each section is combined with submissions from children in other regions to create many unique versions of the story. Two collections of short stories are then professionally published. The contributing classes will also attend a live interactive reading in their local area to hear their story brought to life.

Dominique Palmer, one of the UK's leading environmental activists, and **Love Ssega**, British-Ugandan musician known for his campaigns on social, educational and environmental issues, will tour the UK with these performances from 28 June - 14 July.

Imagine a Story is a free project to all participating schools that helps place literature at the heart of children's learning. The project supports children to develop their writing, reading, language and imaginative skills, in line with the KS2 National Curriculum for English. By thinking creatively, the project encourages children to engage with key issues of their time through the story narrative. *Imagine a Story* increases diverse representation in children's literature — commissioning authors and illustrators from backgrounds underrepresented in children's literature and asking young people to see and place themselves in their writing.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Press images can be downloaded [HERE](#).

Video available [HERE](#).

More information about *Imagine a Story* is [HERE](#).

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Join the conversation:

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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 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

Creative Learning at the Southbank Centre

The Southbank Centre runs a year-round music, literature, visual art and performance programme of participatory learning experiences for children, families, young people and adults. It aims to create arts experiences that are accessible to everyone, with more than 36,000 people taking part each year. Its activities range from in-depth project work and resources for schools and teachers to inspire a love of the arts and support creative learning, to programmes and initiatives that develop and nurture diverse emerging artists, providing them with the skills and knowledge to thrive. The team also delivers a significant Arts & Wellbeing programme, because they believe that arts and creativity play a vital role in improving people's quality of life and mental health. The team's projects respond to local community needs, as well as championing on a national level the positive health benefits of the arts.

About CLPE

The Centre for Literacy in Primary Education is a charity working with all those involved in teaching literacy in primary schools. Its work raises the achievement of children by helping schools to teach literacy more effectively and showing teachers how quality children's literature can be placed at the heart of all learning.

