

SOUTHBANK CENTRE

Press Release

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Contact: press@southbankcentre.co.uk

Press images: [HERE](#)

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SPECTACULAR CABARET GROUP THE TIGER LILLIES RETURN TO THE SOUTHBANK CENTRE THIS CHRISTMAS WITH THE UK PREMIERE OF THEIR *CHRISTMAS CAROL*

Descend into *A Victorian Gutter*, a dark musical twist on Charles Dickens' classic

Performances from Tuesday 14 - Thursday 30 December
Southbank Centre's Purcell Room



(The Tiger Lillies, © Daniela Matejschek)

Post-punk pioneers, **The Tiger Lillies**, return to the Southbank Centre this Christmas with the UK premiere of a brand new concert inspired by Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. Giving the novel a dark musical twist, the band dissect and reassemble the story that everyone knows to shine a light on the poverty and depravity laid bare on the cold London streets. Combining grungy cabaret with anarchic opera, the Olivier Award-winning and Grammy-nominated band play the **Southbank Centre's Purcell Room** from Tuesday 14 - Thursday 30 December (Press Night: Wednesday 15 December 7:45pm).

Founder of the band, Martyn Jacques, says of *The Tiger Lillies' Christmas Carol*:

*"About ten years ago I did a show based on Hans Christian Anderson's *The Little Match Girl*. It was a sad tale about a little girl who died at Christmas in the cold Copenhagen streets, without any shoes, because no one would buy her matches. A friend of Hans Christian Anderson in London was Charles Dickens. *A Christmas Carol* is another sad tale about poverty. There was such an inequality of wealth at the time, death, depravity and addiction on the streets was commonplace. So for writers like Anderson and Dickens to underline and remind people of this inequality was a duty. Eventually welfare states were set up to help children and the vulnerable. Long may they continue!"*

The world of The Tiger Lillies is dark, peculiar and varied, with moments of deep sadness, cruel black humour and immense beauty. Having performed at the Southbank Centre multiple times before, most recently with Edgar Allan Poe's *Haunted Palace*, the unique street opera band, made up of Martyn Jacques and Adrian Stout, have toured the world playing concerts and theatre shows such as *The Ancient Mariner* and the Olivier Award-winning *Shockheaded Peter*. Their songs cover all the dark aspects of life, from prostitution and drug addiction to violence and despair. The music is a mixture of pre-war Berlin cabaret, anarchic opera and gypsy music. Part grand guignol, part seedy vaudeville, part grunge cabaret, The Tiger Lillies never cease to shock, surprise and entertain.

Heather Ruck, Senior Performance Programmer at Southbank Centre, says: *"We're so excited to be welcoming back The Tiger Lillies to the Southbank Centre, especially with their very own adaptation of this Christmas tale. If anyone can bring us joy and beauty through darkness, it's The Tiger Lillies."*

The Tiger Lillies' *Christmas Carol* will run from Tuesday 14 - Thursday 30 December in the Southbank Centre's Purcell Room.

ENDS

For further press information, images and interview requests please contact:

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NOTES TO EDITORS

VENUE

Southbank Centre's Purcell Room
Southbank Centre
Belvedere Road
London
SE1 8XX

AGE RECOMMENDATION

14+

PERFORMANCE DATES & SCHEDULE

Tuesday 14 - Thursday 30 December 2021

All performances at 7:45pm

Additional matinee on 23 December at 3:00pm

Captioned performance on 22 December

No performances on 20 / 24 / 25 December

Press Night: Wednesday 15 December at 7:45pm

TICKETS

£25: 15 - 30 December

£18: 14 December (preview)

Box Office: 0203 879 9555 (Open from 10am - 2pm Monday to Friday)

Website: www.southbankcentre.co.uk

Tickets for The Tiger Lillies' *Christmas Carol* go on sale to Southbank Centre members at 10am on Tuesday 28 September, and general sale at 10am on Wednesday 29 September.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

@TheTigerLillies @southbankcentre

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).

Keeping audiences safe on site

As the Southbank Centre welcomes 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. We continue to review and manage any risks and respond to any changes in government guidance. Full details of Covid-secure measures can be found on the Southbank Centre website [here](#).



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