

# SOUTHBANK CENTRE

---

## Press Release

Date: Wednesday 10 October

Contact: Clare Callaghan

[clare.callaghan@southbankcentre.co.uk](mailto:clare.callaghan@southbankcentre.co.uk), 020 7921 0752

## Southbank Centre's *Winter* returns for 2018 with spectacular light installations, brand new family shows and festive food and music



(L-R: *Circus 1903*, credit: Alvin Tam. *Rumpelstiltskin*, credit: Shane Reid/Carnival Studio. New Year's Eve Spectacular, credit: Clem Onojeghuo)

*Winter* at Southbank Centre returns this year with an abundance of festive fun and entertainment for the whole family, spanning the joyful winter weeks from 9 November 2018 to 6 January 2019.

Two brand new family shows are at the heart of this year's *Winter* programme. The award-winning puppeteers from *War Horse* will present the European premiere of the spectacular, heart-stopping **Circus 1903**, fresh from the Paris Theatre in Las Vegas to the Royal Festival Hall stage at Southbank Centre (19 Dec-5 Jan, RFH) and award-winning Australian theatre companies Windmill Theatre Co and State Theatre Company South Australia will perform the UK premiere of their unique spin on the fantastic fairytale **Rumpelstiltskin** with their brand of theatrical spectacle, rocking music and supreme silliness, starring cabaret legend Paul Capsis (13 Dec-6 Jan, QEH). Other shows this winter include a festive family sing-along with **Julia Donaldson & Axel Scheffler's Zog & Friends Show** (2 Dec, QEH), **That Night Follows Day** by Forced Entertainment (11-15 Dec, PUR) and Maureen Lipman's **Up for It** (17 Dec-6 Jan, PUR).

**David Batchelor** will be lighting up Southbank Centre's winter landscape by extending his *Sixty Minute Spectrum* (2017) commission beyond the roof of the Hayward Gallery. This

incredible installation *Sixty Minute Spectrum Redux (2018)* will now also illuminate the rooftops of the iconic Royal Festival Hall and Queen Elizabeth Hall as well as highlighting their architectural features over the holiday season. Sequenced to sync with the Hayward Gallery light display, the David Batchelor lights will start and end with a vivid red and will appear at different points throughout their cycle in orange, yellow, green, blue, purple or pink, and all the vibrant colours in between.

The sensational **New Year's Eve Spectacular** curated by **Vintage** returns once more for another unmissable year with five floors of entertainment, bringing in the new year with a front-row seat to London's world-famous fireworks (31 Dec, RFH). For one night, the Royal Festival Hall will be transformed into a set-dressed spectacular; five floors of themed club nights, seven bars, two live acts, twelve DJs, eight dance lessons, and outdoor spaces offering the perfect view of the UK's largest annual fireworks display. Six themed pop-up nightclubs will transport visitors with music from the 1920s to the present day, interspersed with live orchestras, specialist DJs, dance lessons and photo studios.

A joyous programme of classical music includes the return of the ever-popular **Handel's Messiah** with the **Philharmonia Orchestra** alongside an outstanding line-up of singers including **Mary Bevan, Kathryn Rudge, Nicky Spence** and **Ashley Riches** (16 Dec, RFH). Visitors are also treated to a magical afternoon of timeless classics at **Christmas at the Movies** (16 Dec, RFH) with music from *Home Alone*, *Harry Potter*, *Love Actually* and *The Snowman*.

For those looking for a festive sing-along, Ian Shaw and Claire Martin present their **Early Xmas Cracker** performance with classic hits from Frank Sinatra, Nancy Wilson, Joni Mitchell, Stevie Wonder, David Bowie and The Pogues (8 Dec, PUR).

There will be an array of free events (11 Dec-01 Jan) to get everyone involved, from DJ sets to cabaret performances. Southbank Centre welcomes **Winter's a DRAG** (29 Dec, Clore Ballroom), a day-long event with London's best drag kings and queens, and **Caribbean Christmas Party Time**, a celebration of traditional festive Caribbean music with live musicians and DJs (15 Dec, QEH Foyer). **Southwark Winter Splash** welcomes the festive season with a concert by 250 students from Southwark Primary Schools singing seasonal songs old and new (12 Dec, Clore Ballroom) and a flurry of **Winter Choirs** will entertain and delight visitors in the lead up to Christmas with 30 minute performances, and even the odd sing-along too (11-23 Dec, QEH Foyer). There will be social dances galore with **Tango Time**, an afternoon of Argentinian tango performances, lessons and social dancing (27 Dec, Clore Ballroom). **Strictly Winter Ballroom** offers visitors a chance to brush up on their ballroom skills while whirling around the dancefloor to djs and live music (26 Dec, Clore Ballroom) and **Learn to Swing** will teach participants to swing, jive and jitterbug like a pro with expert instruction from Simon Selmon and Anna Lambrechts of SwingDance UK, as seen on *The Paul O'Grady Show* and *Dancing on Ice* (24 Dec, Clore Ballroom).

Southbank Centre's popular **Winter Market** (9 Nov-27 Dec) will be buzzing with pop-ups across the 17-acre site as visitors warm up with an assortment of food, drinks and merriment under the twinkling market lights. Two new pop-up bars, **Bar Under the Bridge** and **The**

**Circus Bar** offer tastebud tingling cocktails and delectable food in warm hideaways alongside the river. **Jimmy's Lodge** returns for the second year presenting dazzling alpine themed private igloos, where visitors can enjoy the stunning views and sparkling festive lights. Southbank Centre also welcomes 29 traders from around the world including a number of all time favourites, offering the latest seasonal gifts and delicious street food..

-ENDS-

Further information on events below, including family event listings [here](#).  
Press images can be downloaded [here](#).

Twitter: #SCWinter

**For further press information and images please contact:**

Clare Callaghan, [clare.callaghan@southbankcentre.co.uk](mailto:clare.callaghan@southbankcentre.co.uk), 020 7921 0752

## WINTER MARKET

Southbank Centre's Winter Market pop-ups returns down by the river Thames with food, drink and shopping for all (9 Nov-27 Dec). 29 traders from around the globe will be presenting the latest seasonal gifts and delicious street food with stalls offering Asian, Indian and Greek cuisines, traditional winter favourites like raclette and bratwurst, and sweet treats including waffles and pancakes. Two new food and drink pop-up bars and eateries also pop up on site, **Bar Under the Bridge** will be a warm hideaway serving cheese-themed food - charcuterie and cheese boards, croque monsieur and baked camembert and delicious cocktails such as Blood Orange Paloma, Red Snapper and Prosecco Fred.

Pitching up in front of the Royal Festival Hall will be **The Circus Bar**. Home to sizzling fire-pits where friends and family can pop in and enjoy delicious snacks, baguettes, sharing dishes and snacks with mulled cider and wine in this cosy space.

The regular food market is also open Friday–Sunday in Southbank Centre Square, Belvedere Road. **Jimmy's Lodge** will also be reappearing by Waterloo Bridge - an alpine festive haven where visitors can enjoy the views and lights Christmas parties under a private igloo.

## DAVID BATCHELOR

Artist David Batchelor's *Sixty Minute Spectrum* (2017) was commissioned to celebrate the iconic architecture of the Hayward Gallery providing a countdown to the reopening of the building. Now Batchelor is extending the commission to illuminate the rooftops of the iconic Royal Festival Hall and Queen Elizabeth Hall as well as highlighting their architectural features. This striking commission ***Sixty Minute Spectrum Redux* (2018)** is part of Southbank Centre's *Winter* which celebrates and unites all three Southbank Centre buildings, all open after a long period of restoration.

## PERFORMANCES AND EVENTS

Award-winning Australian theatre companies Windmill Theatre Co and State Theatre Company South Australia present the **UK premiere** of their unique spin on the fantastic fairytale **Rumpelstiltskin**, with original music, vibrant design, and magical twists and turns

that will delight the whole family this winter (13 Dec 2018-6 Jan 2019, QEH). **Tim Etchells** and **Forced Entertainment**, a Southbank Centre associate company, looks at the ways the adult world shapes and defines young people in **That Night Follows Day**, a comical and poignant piece written for, and performed by a young cast (11-15 Dec, PUR), and writer and comedian **Maureen Lipman** performs an evening of rave, rollick and rant, in her news stand-up show **Up for It** for ages 14+ (17 Dec 2018-6 Jan 2019, PUR). From **award-winning puppeteers** from War Horse, the European premiere of the spectacular **Circus 1903**, sees larger-than-life puppet elephants join acrobats, contortionists, jugglers, high wire performers and much more for a circus spectacular that will amaze, captivate, and transport audiences of all ages to the mesmerising Golden Age of circus (19 Dec 2018-5 Jan 2019, RFH). The ultimate festive sing-along **Julia Donaldson & Axel Scheffler's Zog & Friends Show**, featuring songs, stories and live drawing for all ages, celebrates some of the much-loved stories that inspired the magical Zog films (2 Dec, QEH), and London's best drag kings and queens bring seasonal cheer with **Winter's A Drag**, a day-long event celebrating the joy of winter (29 Dec, Clore Ballroom).

## GIGS

Channeling the festive spirit, jazz-singing duo **Ian Shaw and Claire Martin** select seasonal classics and songs from artists such as Frank Sinatra, Stevie Wonder and The Pogues for their **Early Xmas Cracker** (8 Dec, PUR). **Uniting of Opposites** fuse the worlds of jazz and classical Indian music, creating a melting-pot of genres with a host of talented artists joining them on stage for an early holiday treat (6 Dec, PUR). **Live musicians and DJs** showcase the unbeatable festive spirit of a Caribbean Christmas with traditional festive Caribbean music, including parang and soca for **Caribbean Christmas Party Time** (15 Dec, QEH Foyer).

## CLASSICAL CONCERTS

Christmas at Southbank Centre includes special performances from the **Philharmonia Orchestra**, including **Christmas at the Movies** with music from *Home Alone*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, *The Snowman* many more film favourites (16 Dec, RFH), and **Handel's Messiah** featuring a phenomenal line-up of singers including **Mary Bevan, Kathryn Rudge, Nicky Spence, Ashley Riches** (16 Dec, RFH). The **BBC Concert Orchestra**, conducted by **Bramwell Tovey**, presents a wintery themed concert with performances of work written by **Anne Dudley, Guy Barker, Jonny Greenwood** and a world premiere of a new work from **Dobrinka Tabakova** (5 Dec, QEH). The **London Concert Orchestra**, conducted by **Toby Purser**, presents an evening of **Grand Christmas Classics**, including festive readings and joyful song in a Christmas themed event where they will be joined by singers **Laura Mitchell, Alexander James Edwards, the London Philharmonic Choir** and **Fanfare Trumpeters of the Coldstream Guards Band** (14 Dec, RFH). **Stephen Cleobury** conducts **King's College Choir** in a festive night of Carols (13 Dec, RFH) and Southbank Centre's popular **What You Need to Know** series continues with writer Alexandra Coghlan lifting the lid on the musical connections behind traditional **Christmas Carols** (8 Dec, RFH).

## NEW YEAR'S EVE SPECTACULAR

Southbank Centre's annual New Year's extravaganza is once again curated by **Vintage** returning for another unmissable year on Monday 31 December 2018. The eagerly-awaited

event curated by Wayne, Gerardine and Jack Hemingway and the team will transform Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall into five floors of themed club nights, seven bars, two live acts, twelve DJs, eight dance lessons, and outdoor spaces offering the perfect view of the UK's largest annual fireworks display. Visitors will have the exclusive opportunity to a private view of London's world famous New Year's Eve Fireworks on the Royal Festival Hall terrace away from the general public crowds (weather permitting). The ultimate evening of entertainment, **New Year's Eve Spectacular** is the perfect way for merry makers to ring in 2019.

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

### **About Southbank Centre**

Southbank Centre is the UK's largest arts centre, occupying a 17 acre site that sits in the midst of London's most vibrant cultural quarter on the South Bank of the Thames. The site has an extraordinary creative and architectural history stretching back to the 1951 Festival of Britain. Southbank Centre is home to the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and Hayward Gallery as well as The National Poetry Library and the Arts Council Collection. For further information please visit [www.southbankcentre.co.uk](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk).