

SOUTHBANK CENTRE

Press Release

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Celebrate Summer with Southbank Centre's free family fun, LGBTQI+ events, food pop-ups, fountains, films, music, shows and spectacular art



(L-R Peaches © Sarah Jeynes, Jeppe Hein's *Appearing Rooms* © Pete Woodhead, ZooNation Youth Company's *Tales of the Turntable* © Drew Forsyth)

Summer at Southbank Centre (Jul - Sep) sees the 17-acre site play host to an array of free events and an abundance of fun and entertainment for the whole family. Spanning the season's holidays the destination adopts a festival atmosphere celebrating summer with a new and varied programme to suit all age groups. With free events throughout the season the summer-long party by the River Thames explodes with family events as well as performances, film screenings, live music, DJs and a whole host of LGBTQI+ events.

Summer highlights include:

Onsite

- **Outdoor pedal-powered film screenings** *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Chicago*, *Moulin Rouge* and *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. Free and open to the public. (Jul - Aug)
- **Pop-up Bars and Restaurants** offering a variety of food, cocktails, wine and craft beer with all-new lawn games area *Patch and Picnic* to enjoy the fantastic riverside location. (24 May - 1 Sep)
- **Queen Elizabeth Hall Roof Garden** with stunning views over the River Thames, cafe and bar. Free and open to the public. (Apr - Sep)

- **Jeppe Hein's *Appearing Rooms*** - the much loved cooling fountain returns to Queen Elizabeth Hall riverside terrace and offers fun and excitement for all the family. Free and open to the public. (Jun - Sep)
- **Refugee day celebrations** Theatre and comedy form part of Southbank Centre's Refugee Week celebrations showing appreciation for the enormous contribution that refugees make to our community and our country. (23 Jun)
- **Alternative Pride** party presented by Pxssy Palace in collaboration with BBZ, the party features performance and electrifying music and live DJ's. Free and open to the public. (6 Jul)

Exhibitions, shows & festivals

- Major new Hayward Gallery exhibition ***Kiss My Genders*** celebrating artists whose work explores and engages with gender fluidity, as well as non-binary, trans and intersex identities. (HG, 12 Jun - 8 Sep)
- **Free Riverside Terrace Takeover Nights** include live performances, club nights, cabaret and drag acts. Free and open to the public. (weekends 12 July - 24 Aug)
- The UK Premiere of **Jean Paul Gaultier: *Fashion Freak Show***, a spectacular combination of revue and fashion show, celebrating 50 years of pop culture through the eyes of fashion's enfant terrible. (QEH, 23 Jul - 2 Aug)
- UK Premieres from pioneering musician and legendary queer-feminist icon **Peaches** (RFH 28 Aug) and outspoken singer-songwriter and producer **Planningtorock**. (QEH, 17 Jul)
- **New Music Biennial** a free weekend music festival inviting audiences to explore various genres outside the traditional concert hall setting. Free and open to the public. (5 - 7 Jul)
- The longest running artist-curated festival in the world, ***Meltdown*** returns for its 26th year, this time with Grammy Award-winning American composer, producer, arranger and guitarist **Nile Rodgers** at the helm. He takes over the Southbank Centre site with his unique creative vision for nine days of exclusive collaborations, free events and some of the world's best dance music this summer (3 - 11 Aug)
- **Associate Company** ZooNation Youth Company present ***Tales of the Turntable*** - an innovative dance theatre journey through hip-hop, funk, soul, disco, house and rap. (QEH, 15 - 26 Aug)
- The return of ***Peppa Pig: My First Concert*** everyone's favourite pig family leads a fun, interactive introduction to live orchestra. (RFH, 24 - 26 Aug)

Pop-Up Bars and Restaurants:

From May Southbank Centre will be bustling with traders from around the world with an eclectic mix of popular **Pop-Up Bars and Restaurants** offering a desirable location to enjoy a varied selection of street food, craft beer, wines and cocktails. **Summer** welcomes back favourites such as **The Hop Locker, Truffle Burger, Elephant Juice, Stacked, SNOG** and **Oh My Dog!** alongside new additions to the destination including 'pop-up King' Jimmy Garcia's **BBQ Club** with the opportunity to play outdoor games on your own private lawn

right by the river Thames with **Patch and Picnic** and London family-run restaurant **Applebee's Fish** will be offering award-winning Mersea oysters to be enjoyed with champagne at their first pop-up bar. More information [HERE](#)

Appearing Rooms by Jeppe Hein:

Jeppe Hein's free interactive sculpture returns to Southbank Centre after popular appearances in previous summers, providing excitement for the whole family. Shooting jets of water into the air, the fountain creates rooms that disappear as quickly as they emerge.

Queen Elizabeth Hall Roof Garden Cafe & Bar:

Southbank Centre's award-winning roof garden is free to visit and is filled with beautiful plants, trees and wildflowers, which are lovingly tended to by gardeners from Grounded EcoTherapy. Summer drinks and cocktails can be enjoyed overlooking the River Thames until sunset.

Takeover Nights:

Summer at Southbank Centre will include a series of themed nights of entertainment, music and performances as well as club and cabaret nights on the riverside terrace. The lineup includes -

Thursday DJ nights

- **The Batty Mama** North London DJ collective for queer and trans people of colour (QTIPOC) (11,18, 25 Jul)
- **DJ Siren** for women and non-binary artists on the techno scene (1,15, 22 Aug)

Friday Live Cabaret and DJ Nights

- **Drag Syndrome** The world's first collective of drag kings and queens with Down's syndrome take over Riverside Terrace (12 Jul)
- **Raze Collective** A music showcase of the best in queer performers curated by a charity that supports and nurtures queer performance in the UK (19 Jul)
- **The Lol Word** A comedy collective of queer women and non-binary performers presents music, drag and cabaret (26 Jul)
- **Little Gay Brother** Party without prejudice with the queer performance collective and their summer festival rave (2 Aug)
- **Duckie** A variety show line-up stretching ideas of gender from the original purveyors of working class queer club nights (16 Aug)
- **Gay Garage** Re-e-wind to the best days of garage and two-step anthems with so-solid queer East London club night (23 Aug)

Saturday Live Cabaret and DJ nights

- **Pecs Drag Kings** Hot cabaret performances, 1990s R&B and incredible kings with an all female and non-binary theatre cabaret (13 Jul)
- **Pxssy Palace** The Collective presents an electric and dynamic evening of music from women and fems of colour. (20 Jul)
- **BBZ Takeover** Curatorial collective showcasing queer trans & non-binary artist and DJs of colour. (27 Jul)
- **The Cocoa Butter Club** A roster of queer performers of colour present burlesque, sideshows and live music (27 Jul)

- **Tw*t Boutique** An era - defining club night featuring the best beats, electro pop and indie DJs. (24 Aug)

Sunday Dance and Family parties

- **Disco Loco** Family friendly queer programme for everyone by Hackney Showrooms. (14-26 Aug)
- **Queer Tango on the Thames** Free gender-blind classes, live music and dancing throughout the evening (25 Aug)

Film Screenings:

Enjoy outdoor film screenings presented by **Electric Pedals**. With a variety ranging from musical drama to horror parody, there is something for everyone. Outdoor pedal-powered film screenings this year include **Little Shop of Horrors** (24 Jul), **Chicago** (31 Jul), **Moulin Rouge** (24 Aug) and **The Rocky Horror Picture Show** (21 Aug) (RFH riverside terrace).

Refugee day celebrations as part of Refugee Week:

In recognition of the contribution the refugee community make to our country and city, Southbank Centre host a series of events including **Staging Sisterhood Theatre without borders**, the women's theatre project and **No Direction Home Laughter unites us** an evening of stand-up by comics from refugee and migrant backgrounds (PUR 23 Jun).

Onsite Pride Celebrations:

Presented by **Pxssy Palace** in collaboration with **BBZ**, Southbank Centre's alternative pride terrace party features performance and electrifying music to keep everyone dancing from sunset into the early hours (6 Jul).

Art:

Spanning the past 50 years, **Kiss My Genders** (HG, 12 Jun – 8 Sep) brings together over 100 artworks by different generations of artists from around the world. Employing a wide range of approaches, these artists share an interest in articulating and engaging with gender fluidity, as well as with non-binary, trans and intersex identities. **Kiss My Genders** also extends beyond the gallery walls with commissions that take place across the wider site. **Ad Minoliti's** colourful geometric designs adorn flags, canopies, trees and the Riverside Stage; **Athi-Patra Ruga** transforms the windows of Queen Elizabeth Hall and Hayward Gallery Foyer into a striking display of 'stained glass', and a poem by **Tarek Lakhri** will greet visitors as they approach the Mandela Steps. **Kiss My Genders Live** (12 July) will present a special evening of performance, poetry, screenings and discussion featuring Victoria Sin, Jenkin van Zyl, Hannah Quinlan and Rosie Hastings. More information [HERE](#)

Music:

Southbank Centre's **Meltdown festival** returns, this year curated by Grammy Award-winning producer, composer, guitarist, CHIC co-founder and Abbey Road's first ever Chief Creative Advisor, **Nile Rodgers**. From 3 - 11 Aug, Rodgers presents a festival full of exclusive collaborations, world-wide one-offs and unmissable opportunities to enjoy some of the world's best dance music this summer. **Meltdown 2019** acts include **Nile Rodgers & CHIC**, the World Premiere of **Eurythmics Songbook**, **Despacio**, **Thundercat**, **Anitta**, **SOPHIE**, **Songhoy Blues**, **Alfa Mist**, **Durand Jones & The Indications**, **KOKOROKO**, A Night of **Studio 54** ft. 'Jellybean' **Benitez** and **Kyle Dixon & Michael Stein** performing the music of **Stranger Things**. Summer at Southbank Centre also sees UK premieres from outspoken and fearless dance producer **Planningtorock**, who brings their unabashed sensuality and fearless synth-popping attitude to Queen Elizabeth Hall (17 Jul) and pioneering musician

and legendary queer-feminist icon **Peaches** with her new show ***There's Only One Peach with the Hole in the Middle*** in Royal Festival Hall (28 Aug). Southbank Centre's monthly clubnight ***Concrete Lates*** continues through the summer promoting a lineup of cutting edge DJs and musicians, in partnership with Boiler Room. More information on *Meltdown* festival [HERE](#) and the rest of the gigs programme [HERE](#)

New Music Biennial:

A celebration of new music from the UK's most talented composers and musicians, the ***New Music Biennial***, presented in association with PRS for Music Foundation, presents a unique snapshot of contemporary music in the UK across all genres from classical to world music, jazz, folk, electronic and music for ice cream vans. Over an entirely free weekend of music, performance and talks, 20 new works are performed in a range of venues across Southbank Centre's site. Highlights of this year's festival include new commissions from **Gazelle Twin** and **Max de Wardener**, **Roderick Williams** commissioned by **Chineke! Orchestra**, **Claire M Singer**, **Khyam Allami**, **Sona Jobarteh**, **Arun Ghosh**, **Sarah Tandy**, **Forest Swords**, **Klein**, **Dan Jones** and **Sam Eastmond** alongside works composed within the last 15 years, including **Shiva Feshareki's** acclaimed *Dialogue* for turntables and orchestra, commissioned by **BBC Concert Orchestra** in 2018. (RFH, QEH, PUR, 5 - 7 Jul). More information [HERE](#)

Performance & Dance:

This summer Southbank Centre hosts the **UK Premiere** of Jean Paul Gaultier's extravagant new show **Jean Paul Gaultier: *Fashion Freak Show***. Eccentric, scandalous, provocative, exuberant and funny as ever, Jean Paul Gaultier brings his stunning new creation, an explosive combination of a revue and fashion show, to Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall (23 Jul - 2 Aug). Southbank Centre Associate Company **ZooNation Youth Company** then makes a welcome return to Queen Elizabeth Hall with ***Tales of the Turntable***, a toe-tapping, heart-warming dance and music show for all the family commissioned by Southbank Centre (15 - 26 Aug). National annual youth dance festival **One Dance UK** presents **U.Dance** 2019 in July, showcasing incredible talent from young dancers and choreographers from across the country (20 - 21 Jul), and 14 young acrobats and musicians recreate the sights and sounds of life in the Maghreb and the thrill of Moroccan street life in **HALKA**, part of Shubbak Festival (11 Jul). Returning following a successful run as part of *Imagine* festival, **Peppa Pig: My First Concert** sees Daddy Pig and Mummy Pig learning how to conduct an orchestra in Royal Festival Hall, for ages 2+ (24 - 26 Aug). More information [HERE](#)

Literature:

Literature programme highlights include an in conversation event with prize-winning poet **Ocean Vuong**, who discusses his debut novel, *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* with **Sandeep Parmar**, Professor of English Literature at the University of Liverpool ([2 Jul](#)), and a UK-exclusive event with bestselling author of *The Argonauts* **Maggie Nelson** who discusses her work with literary critic and cultural historian **Lara Feigel** ([8 Jul](#)). New for this season is the launch of a major partnership with **Out-Spoken**, one of London's premier live poetry and music nights which celebrates diversity of voice in writing and performance. Beginning a year-long residency at Southbank Centre in May, with monthly events and masterclasses, the line-up for July includes **Morgan Parker**, **Hannah Sullivan** and **Brian Patten** ([22 Jul](#)) with a masterclass led by **Raymond Antrobus** ([13 Jul](#)). Other highlights include events in Southbank Centre's National Poetry Library and London's leading LGBTQ+ literary salon

Polari featuring Polari-founder **Paul Burston** discussing his latest novel ([26 Jul](#)). More information [HERE](#)

-ENDS-

For further press information and images [HERE](#)

Southbank Centre summer events listings can be viewed online [HERE](#)

Family event listings can be found [HERE](#)

Full notes on commercial outlets [HERE](#)

Twitter: #SCSummer

NOTES TO EDITORS

Southbank Centre venues

RFH - Royal Festival Hall

QEH - Queen Elizabeth Hall

PUR - Purcell Room

HG - Hayward Gallery

About Southbank Centre

Southbank Centre is the UK's largest arts centre and one of the UK's top five visitor attractions, occupying a 17-acre site 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. 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).