

SOUTHBANK CENTRE

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Images: [here](#)

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Southbank Centre announces packed summer season *You Belong Here*, sending a message of welcome to all



Credits in Notes to Editors

- ***You Belong Here*** promises a vibrant, diverse summer programme of culture and art with something for everyone
- **Free live events every weekend** as well as thought-provoking **public art installations**
- Exciting cross-artform festivals including **Unlimited**, celebrate the work of disabled artists
- World-class shows include the UK premiere of ***Crazy Smooth: In My Body***, which explores the challenges of ageing in hip-hop, and family show ***Home*** from Mimewave
- Rich literature programme delving into the works of writer and activist **James Baldwin**, as well as leading voices **Kelechi Okafor**, **David Olusoga** and more

From Saturday 29 June to Sunday 8 September, the Southbank Centre proudly presents ***You Belong Here***, an extensive multi-artform summer programme with a message of welcome at its core. Taking its name from the nine-metre-high neon artwork illuminating the Hayward Gallery exterior as part of ***Tavares Strachan: There Is Light Somewhere*** exhibition, ***You Belong Here*** features a wealth of world-class events for families, adults and diverse communities which explore notions of belonging and encourages a sense of togetherness and community.

With key voices from activism, history, journalism, filmmaking and the performing arts, ***You Belong Here*** presents an inclusive programme that focuses on the importance of welcoming all, including those who may often feel sidelined by society.

Mark Ball, Artistic Director of the Southbank Centre, says: “One of the Southbank Centre’s guiding principles, born out of the legacy of the Festival of Britain in 1951, is that arts and culture should be inclusive and accessible to everyone. In that spirit, *You Belong Here* is a vibrant mix of voices and communities showcasing a diverse range of cultures, art-forms and lived experiences. In a society that often looks for scapegoats and with the fires of the culture wars stoked to create division, our programming this summer celebrates difference and creates bridges of understanding through welcoming, wonderful experiences for all to enjoy.”

Community Engagement and Co-curated Free Programming

Since the Open Foyer Policy in 1983, when the Royal Festival Hall opened its Foyers to welcome the public all day, the Southbank Centre remains the nation’s most culturally inclusive and creatively expressive space where everyone can experience the arts. This Summer, *You Belong Here* continues that tradition offering an exciting free programme from well-being participatory workshops to music performances. The fun doesn’t stop there, with electrifying weekends with **ESEA Unseen** and **AZEEMA**, bringing together a blend of storytelling and sounds to explore identity and culture.

Celebrate the diverse communities that make London what it is with colourful showcases on the Riverside Terrace. **NAZAR** returns for Pride, showcasing DJ’s from SWANA and South Asian communities (Saturday 29 June 2024), and grassroots organisation **Jazz re:freshed** presents the 11th edition of the annual festival **JAZZ: RE:FEST** (Saturday 20 July, Clore Ballroom). **Just VibeZ** collective brings the Carnival with a **Friday Fete** (Friday 19 July, Riverside Terrace) and **FLAWA** presents a weekend of Latin-American performances and sounds from the Global South (Friday 2 August - Sunday 4 August, Riverside Terrace).

Nurture well-being, connection and creativity with community gardening event **Up on the Roof**, hosted by horticultural therapy group Grounded Ecotherapy (Sunday 14 July, Queen Elizabeth Hall Roof Garden). For older adults, **Skylark Sessions** engages with the local Caribbean community and delves into dance (dates to be confirmed).

Counterpoints Arts brings the fun with a weekend of communal workshops and performances, including the inclusive club night **Our HeartBeats** featuring young refugees with big DJ dreams (Friday 9 - Sunday 11 August, Riverside Terrace). Lewisham-based youth arts collective SOUNDS LIKE CHAOS **Bring The Noise** with an evening of music from South East London-based creatives and **All Routes Lead In** creates a colourful amalgamation of workshops from young people, for everyone (Friday 12 - Saturday 13 July, Riverside Terrace). Explore Somalia’s rich heritage by entering interactive installation **The House of Weaving Songs**, a dome steel structure reminiscent of a nomadic home (Thursday 8 - Sunday 11 August, Queen Elizabeth Hall Roof Garden, Relaxed Hours available 11am-12pm).

Public Art and Summer Exhibitions

Explore a variety of new thought-provoking public art installations that shine a light on identity and history. Two giant inflatables of icons **Marsha P Johnson** and **Mary Seacole** take centre stage on the Riverside Terrace, while **Hank Willis Thomas’** colourful, reimagined flags of Africa dance high above on the Royal Festival Hall roof. **Artur Conka** and **Serena Brown’s** large-scale photographs offer an honest picture of working-class life

today. At the same time, **Florence Blanchard** and **Yinka Ilori**'s vibrant patterns provide a transformative experience to the Mandela Walk stairs and Queen's Walk. Inside, marvel at **Olivia Plender**'s mobile work depicting the cross-border friendship between **Sylvia Pankhurst** and Emperor **Haile Selassie**.

The Hayward Gallery presents **Tavares Strachan: There Is Light Somewhere**, the first mid-career survey of the New York-based, Bahamian artist. Strachan celebrates unsung explorers and neglected cultural trailblazers, inviting audiences to engage with overlooked characters whose lives illuminate histories hidden by bias (Tuesday 18 June - Sunday 1 September). Designated **Relaxed Hours** provide additional sensory support (Tuesday 30 July), while a planned **schools programme** aims to inspire young creative minds in and out of the classroom.

Ticketed Summer Experiences

Crazy Smooth: In My Body brings together an intergenerational group of street and hip-hop dancers to explore what it means to belong as the dancing body ages (Thursday 18 – Saturday 20 July, Queen Elizabeth Hall). Celebrate the beauty, youth, and artistry of African culture in circus show **Afrique En Cirque**, combining enthralling acrobatics with Afro-jazz rhythms (Wed 24 - Sun 28 July, Queen Elizabeth Hall).

As part of Refugee Week, **From the Lips to the Moon** combines music, poetry and hypnotic visuals in a live improvised performance (Sunday 30th June, Purcell Room). Family show **Home** transports audiences into the fairy-tale world of creator **Anastasiia Liubchenko**, to explore themes of displacement and what makes a home (Saturday 13 - Sunday 14 July).

To mark her debut picture book *Strong Like Me*, **Kelechi Okafor** is joined by a panel of remarkable women to discuss personal interpretations of strength and Black womanhood in today's world (Saturday 13 July, Queen Elizabeth Hall). The 100th birthday of iconic 20th-century writer and activist **James Baldwin** is marked by panel discussions and readings as part of the **Conversations with Baldwin Book Club**, presented in collaboration with Words of Colour (Sunday 21 July 2024, Purcell Room).

From **The Arab Film Club**, a special screening and Q&A of short films explore stories of migration and refugee narratives (Sunday 30th June, Purcell Room), and BAFTA-winning historian and film-maker **David Olusoga** draws upon his acclaimed documentaries to chart the story of Black British history (Thursday 11 July, Royal Festival Hall). Award-winning author and journalist **Sathnam Sangera** traces the legacies and influence of the British Empire in his ground-breaking new book *Empireworld* (Sunday 14 July, Queen Elizabeth Hall).

New contemporary-classical music festival **Sound Within Sound** takes audiences on a journey through unconventional musical experiences and overlooked musicians (Thursday 4 July - Sunday 7 July). **Unlimited** festival returns (Wednesday 4 September - Sunday 8 September, Queen Elizabeth Hall), celebrating the work of disabled artists through a range of artforms such as **Suzie Larke**'s photography project *Unseen* exploring the inner struggle of mental illness (8 June - Sunday 8 September, Queen Elizabeth Hall).

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

Image credits, L-R, clockwise

- James Baldwin © Allan Warren
- Tavares Strachan, You Belong Here, Prospect 3 New Orleans, 2014 (Installation view from Prospect 3 Biennale, New Orleans, LA). Blocked out neon travelling installation on the Mississippi River. 30 ft x 80 ft on 100-ft barge. Courtesy of the artist, photo & video by Joe Vincent Grey
- Home © Hans Boddeke.
- From the Lips to the Moon © Jemima Yong.

Link to You Belong Here webpage [here](#)

More information on *Tavares Strachan: There is Light Somewhere* [here](#).

More information on the Summer Literature and Spoken Word season [here](#).

Further information:

www.southbankcentre.co.uk

Twitter: [@southbankcentre](https://twitter.com/southbankcentre)

Instagram: [@southbankcentre](https://www.instagram.com/southbankcentre)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/southbankcentre/

The Hayward Gallery opening times:

Tue – Fri, 10am – 6pm

Sat, 10am – 8pm

Sun, 10am – 6pm

Closed Mon

Further information:

www.southbankcentre.co.uk

X: [@haywardgallery](https://twitter.com/haywardgallery)

Instagram: [@Hayward.Gallery](https://www.instagram.com/Hayward.Gallery)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/haywardgallery/

TikTok: [@southbankcentre](https://www.tiktok.com/@southbankcentre)

About the Southbank Centre

The Southbank Centre is the UK's largest multi-arts centre and engages the most diverse audiences of any performing arts organisation in the UK. Our biggest venue, the Royal Festival Hall (2,700 seats) is the lasting legacy of the 1951 Festival of Britain and the ambition and values of that project – that arts, ideas, innovation and culture can heal communities and should be available and accessible to everyone – are still our guiding principles today.

The Southbank Centre is uniquely able to offer a wide-ranging, inclusive and world-class artistic programme spanning contemporary visual arts, music, dance, performance, literature, comedy and spoken word across the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room, the Hayward Gallery and our free spaces. We are also home to the National Poetry Library, the National Academy for Social Prescribing (NASP) and 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

About the Hayward Gallery

The Hayward Gallery, part of the Southbank Centre, has a long history of presenting work by the world's most adventurous and innovative artists including major solo shows by both emerging and established artists and dynamic group exhibitions. They include those by Bridget Riley, Bruce Nauman, Anish Kapoor, Lee Bul, Andreas Gursky, Tracey Emin, Jeremy Deller, Kader Attia and Matthew Barney, as well as influential group exhibitions such as Africa Remix, Light Show, Psycho Buildings and Space Shifters. Opened by Queen Elizabeth II in July 1968, the gallery is one of the few remaining buildings of its style. The Brutalist building was designed by a group of young architects, including Dennis Crompton, Warren Chalk and Ron Herron and is named after Sir Isaac Hayward, a former leader of the London County Council.



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