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Press Images: [HERE](#)

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## Imagine Festival 2025



L-R Clockwise: *There's a Bear on My Chair* © Ross Collins; *Rollercoaster* © Florence Schroeder; *The Colour of Dinosaurs* © Paul Blakemore

London's leading arts festival for families, **Imagine Festival**, will return to the Southbank Centre next year. Running from 18-23 February 2025, *Imagine Festival* will transform the

Southbank Centre into a vibrant cultural playground for the February half term with a fun-filled range of events for children and their grown-ups to enjoy.

Now in its 23rd year, and with no intention of growing up any time soon, the festival is renowned for inspiring and allowing children from 0-11 years to express their creativity, explore their artistic potential and to celebrate their unique talents. The *Imagine* programme offers unbeatable cultural experiences, from music to storytelling, comedy, poetry, dance, visual arts and a range of free events, bringing families together to spark their imaginations. Running alongside the festival, the immensely popular *REPLAY* returns to the Southbank Centre's Spirit Level in the Royal Festival Hall. Part installation, part adventure playground, *REPLAY* is a space built entirely out of waste materials repurposed for fun.

With the aim of creating an inclusive and welcoming environment for all, Southbank Centre's *Imagine* is a relaxed Festival, with a relaxed approach to noise and movement in the space. In addition, there are specific BSL-interpreted, captioned and audio described events. Prior to half-term, there are also special schools events featuring several of the festival's partners, such as Aurora Orchestra.

**Ruth Hardie, Head of Public Programming at the Southbank Centre**, said: *"The Southbank Centre was built for the nation's enjoyment and to provide everyone of all ages and backgrounds access to arts and culture. Imagine embraces that idea wholeheartedly, providing a place for children and their families to explore their creative potential together and be inspired by world-class arts. Families can meet and feel at home at the Southbank Centre, making lifelong memories for both children and grown ups to cherish."*

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## **EVENTS**

### **REPLAY: A Limitless Recycled Playground**

*Tue 21 Jan - Sun 1 Jun, Spirit Level, Level 1, Royal Festival Hall. Free. For ages 6 months – 11 years.*

Enter an endless world of play and invention in a limitless recycled playground as The Herd Theatre's *REPLAY* features during Imagine Festival 2025. The space features a design to ignite imaginations, a score composed from recycled sounds and a crowd-sourced play generator.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/replay-a-limitless-recycled-playground/>

### **Afro Dance with HomeBros**

*Tue 18 Feb, 10.30am & 1.30pm, The Clore Ballroom, Level 2, Royal Festival Hall. Free. For ages 5+.*

Drop in to this free session with pioneers of the Afro dance industry in the UK, HomeBros. Learn some new moves and routines, and watch incredible short performances from the exciting dance duo.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/afro-dance-with-homebros/>

### **Mini Architects**

*Tue 18 Feb, 11am, Level 5 Function Room, Level 5, Green Side, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets £8. For ages 3 – 5.*

Join author Joséphine Séblon and illustrator Robert Sae-Heng as they present some of the 20 amazing projects in their book, *Mini Architects*, which take inspiration from buildings such as the pyramids of ancient Egypt, New York city's skyline and the mythical Labyrinth of Theseus. The pair also take inspiration from the distinctive architecture of the Southbank Centre and the nearby buildings, to tell us all about our surroundings.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/mini-architects/>

### **Supertato Party!**

*Tue 18 Feb, 1pm, Level 5 Function Room, Level 5, Green Side, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets £8. For ages 3 – 5.*

There's a potato party happening and you're invited! Sue Hendra, co-creator of our favourite supermarket superhero *Supertato*, celebrates the tenth birthday of the beloved books with a super veggie workshop for the family.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/supertato-party/>

### **Jodie Lancet-Grant: The Wild West Twins**

*Tue 18 Feb, 3pm, Level 5 Function Room, Level 5, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets £8. For ages 3 – 5.*

Join Jodie Lancet-Grant, author of *The Legend of the Wild West Twins*, for a rip-roaring afternoon of stories, games, a design-your-own-WANTED-poster activity, and a chance to find out your cowgirl or cowboy name. Yeehaw!

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/jodie-lancet-grant-the-wild-west-twins/>

### **Writing Workshop with Lisa Williamson: Bigg School**

*Tue 18 Feb, 11.30am & 1.30pm, Sunley Pavilion, Level 3, Green Side, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets £10. For ages 9 – 11.*

Explore the world of storytelling, learn how to bring your characters to life and have fun crafting and experimenting with your own stories as the author shares some of the inspiration behind her books. Packed with inspiring tips and practical writing advice and guidance, this event is perfect for writers and readers of all abilities and levels of confidence.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/writing-workshop-with-lisa-williamson-bigg-school/>

### **Imagine's Giant Chalkboard**

*Tue 18 – Sun 23 Feb, 10.30am, Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer. Free. For ages 3+.*

The Giant Chalkboard returns to *Imagine Festival* – pick up a piece of chalk and get creative! Kids are invited to scribble, doodle, draw and create to their heart's content.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/imagines-giant-chalkboard/>

### **Poetry Adventures with Kate Wakeling**

*Tue 18 Feb, 10.45am, National Poetry Library, Level 5, Blue Side, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets £10. For ages 6 – 11.*

Join poet Kate Wakeling to race a comet through outer space, bake an exceptionally weird cake and much more in a playful interactive poetry workshop. Featuring lively poetry performances interspersed with relaxed and unusual opportunities for children to get involved and write their own poems.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/poetry-adventures-with-kate-wakeling/>

### **Meditation Station**

*Tues 18 - Sat 22 Feb, 3.30pm, The Clore Ballroom, Level 2, Royal Festival Hall. Free. For ages 5+.*

All aboard at the meditation station! Journey through sound, movement and story to land softly after a busy day at *Imagine Festival*. Take the chance to recharge and resettle, ideal for calming down and rounding up an exciting day out.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/the-meditation-station/>

### **A Message for the Future**

*Wed 19 - Sun 23 Feb, 10.30am, Weston Roof Pavilion, Level 6, Green Side, Royal Festival Hall. Pay What You Can. For ages 0 – 3.*

Be immersed in a meditative installation of pop-up gig-theatre performances for 0 – 3 year olds and their carers. *A Message for the Future* features original storytelling and live music by acclaimed Margate gig theatre-makers Brigitte Aphrodite and Quiet Boy.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/a-message-for-the-future/>

### **There's a Bear on My Chair**

*Tue 18 - Sun 23 Feb, various Times, Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets from £14. For ages 2 – 7.*

Enter the mischievous world of Bear and Mouse in this first ever stage adaptation of Ross Collins' much-loved books. Puppeteer Toby Olié (*Spirited Away, Animal Farm, War Horse*) brings Bear and Mouse to life through loveable, life-sized puppets creating a show bursting with laughs and surprises.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/theres-a-bear-on-my-chair/>

### **Workshop with Eric Huang: Mapping Magical Lands**

*Wed 19 Feb, 11.30am & 1.30pm, Sunley Pavilion, Level 3, Green Side, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets £10. For ages 6 – 8.*

Author Eric Huang joins us to present his new book series based on East Asian mythology, *Guardians of the New Moon*, in an interactive workshop of writing, reading and world-building.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/workshop-with-eric-huang-mapping-magical-lands/>

### **The Colour of Dinosaurs**

*Wed 19 & Thu 20 Feb, Wed: 10.30am, 1pm & 3.30pm, Thu: 11.30am & 2:30pm, Purcell Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets from £14. For ages 6 – 11.*

Join famous palaeontologist Dr Jakob Vinther to find out what dinosaurs really got up to during a day with soaring music, catchy songs and mind-blowing science. Dr Vinther changed the world when he figured out what colour dinosaurs actually were. Now, he swaps the lab for the stage alongside five musicians, who tell the story of this roarsome discovery!

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/the-colour-of-dinosaurs/>

### **Great Big Tiny World**

*Wed 19, Fri 21 & Sat 22 Feb, 10.30am; 11.45am; and 2pm, Blue Room, Level 1, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets £20 (admitting one baby and one adult). For children under 12 months.*

Settle in amongst hundreds of real plants, to watch, hear and feel the environment come to life all around you in an extraordinary relaxed show for babies and their adults from internationally acclaimed sensory theatre company Oily Cart.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/great-big-tiny-world/>

### **Imagine Artist Studio x WOM Collective**

*Wed 19 – Sun 23 Feb, 10.30am, 11.45am, 1.30pm & 2.45pm, Undercroft, Level 1, Queen Elizabeth Hall. Pay what you want. For ages 7 – 11.*

Immerse yourself in a street art masterclass with WOM Collective. Focusing on a different specialism every day, the workshops introduce participants to various street art techniques like stencil making, graffiti lettering and how to create art adapted to the urban spaces.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/imagine-artist-s...x-wom-collective/>

### **Singing All Over The World**

*Wed 19 Feb, 10.30am & 1.30pm, The Clore Ballroom, Level 2, Royal Festival Hall. Free. For ages 5+.*

In preparation for International Mother Language Day, experience a day of performances from different choirs and learn songs in different languages to celebrate all voices across the world.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/singing-all-over-the-world/>

### **Ballet Besties: Yasmine Naghdi & Chitra Soundar**

*Thu 20 Feb, 10.30am, Level 5 Function Room, Level 5, Green Side, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets £8. For ages 7 – 9.*

The Royal Ballet's Principal Ballerina Yasmine Naghdi shares her debut children's book series, *Ballet Besties*, co-authored with Chitra Soundar, that celebrates the joy of dance. They will share their inspiration for the books alongside Naghdi talking about her dancing career and demonstrating key ballet items and dance positions, getting volunteers engaged on stage.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/ballet-besties-yasmine-naghdi-chitra-soundar/>

### **When The World Turns**

*Thu 20 & Sun 23 Feb, Thu: 11am, 1pm & 3.30pm, Sun: 11am & 2pm, Blue Room, Level 1, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets £16 (admitting one child plus up to two accompanying adults). For disabled children of all ages. Event Information: This performance is for disabled children of all ages who experience the most barriers to access and who are wheelchair users (who have historically been labelled as having profound and multiple learning disabilities).*

*When the World Turns* is an accessible, intimate, interactive show from the pioneers of Sensory Theatre, Oily Cart. Immerse yourself amongst hundreds of real plants, watch, hear and feel as music, puppets, sounds, scents and shadows come to life around you.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/when-the-world-turns/>

### **Big Laughs for Little Bellies**

*Fri 21 Feb, 10.30am & 1.30pm, The Clore Ballroom, Level 2, Royal Festival Hall. Free. For ages 5+.*

Comedian Jay Foreman, comedian and writer Leila Navabi and internationally renowned poet, performer and educator Joshua Seigal bring devilishly cheeky songs, poems and comedy to the Clore Ballroom floor for a barrelful of laughs.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/big-laughs-for-little-bellies/>

### **Rollercoaster**

*Fri 21 & Sat 22 Feb, 2.30pm & 6.30pm, Purcell Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets from £14. For ages 7+.*

Strap in for pop-punk juggling as juggler Wes Peden shares his cutting-edge tricks inspired by corkscrews, adrenaline and high-tech seatbelts. Wes Peden has performed around the world from Olympic stadiums in Tokyo to Broadway theatres in New York and glacier museums in Iceland. His energetic, playful and complex style has won awards from the International Juggling Association and Cirque de Demain.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/rollercoaster/>

### **Grimwood Party with Nadia Shireen**

*Thu 20 Feb, 1pm, Level 5 Function Room, Level 5, Green Side, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets £8. For ages 7 – 9.*

Sharpen your pencils and prepare to laugh your head off as author and illustrator Nadia Shireen tells us all about the world of her *Grimwood* series. Find out what it takes to create your own story and have a go at drawing two of the characters yourself.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/grimwood-party-with-nadia-shireen/>

### **Darryl Gadzekpo & Ella Phillips: Plant to Plate**

*Thu 20 Feb, 3pm, Level 5 Function Room, Level 5, Green Side, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets £8. For ages 7 – 9.*

Green-fingered duo Darryl Gadzekpo and Ella Phillips celebrate their fun and informative book, *From Plant to Plate* and show us how to grow mighty ingredients, then transform them into delicious, plant-powered feasts.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/darryl-gadzekpo-ella-phillips-plant-to-plate/>

### **When Stories Come Alive**

*Thu 20 Feb, 10.30am & 1.30pm, The Clore Ballroom, Level 2, Royal Festival Hall. Free. For ages 5+.*

Words jump off the page, images come alive and music fills the silence as we bring an entire book to life in a day. Come and be part of the story! Hear from incredible storytellers and settle in for gripping live performances at this drop-in event.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/when-stories-come-alive/>

### **Worlds of Words: Translation & Drawing Workshop**

*Fri 21 Feb, 11.30am & 1.30pm, Sunley Pavilion, Level 3, Green Side, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets £10. For ages 9 – 11.*

On World Mother Language Day, join illustrator and translator Elīna Brasliņa to explore poems and stories from around the world. Try your hand at bringing poems into English, and translating words into images! No knowledge of other languages is necessary and all attendees receive a translated book to take home.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/worlds-of-words-translation-and-drawing-works-hop/>

### **ZooNation's Hip-Hop Half Term**

Sat 22 Feb, 10.30am & 1.30pm, The Clore Ballroom, Level 2, Royal Festival Hall. Free. For ages 5+.

Join ZooNation: The Kate Prince Company for a fun-filled day for all the family, with workshops and performances from ZooNation Youth Company, plus a lunchtime DJ.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/zoonations-hip-hop-half-term/>

### **An Afternoon with Draw with Rob**

Sat 22 Feb, 1.30pm, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £12. For ages 5+.

Join award-winning author and illustrator and festival favourite Rob Biddulph as he brings to life his award-winning picture books and introduces his brand new picture book, *I Follow the Fox*, in this fun-packed family session fizzing with laughs, creativity and drawing.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/an-afternoon-with-draw-with-rob/>

### **Dav Pilkey and DOG MAN**

Sat 22 Feb, 10.30am, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £12. For ages 7+.

Get ready to howl with laughter as the creator of *DOG MAN* leads an event filled with favourite characters, sneak peeks and tonnes of inspiration. Dav Pilkey has been delighting kids and families with books that ignite their passion for reading. Don't miss the chance to meet the award-winning author and illustrator in the UK for the first time in 10 years!

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/a-morning-with-dav-pilkey-and-dog-man/>

### **Dr Ronx: How to Save a Life**

Sun 23 Feb, 10.45am, Purcell Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets from £10. For ages 6+.

Award-winning non-binary emergency medicine doctor and TV presenter Dr Ronx is back with an essential guide to handle any emergency situation, *How to Save a Life*. The book empowers young readers to feel prepared, and arms parents with helpful language for navigating challenging conversations and scenarios. This high-energy event features Dr Ronx's trademark balance of facts and fun, real life examples and inspiring stories.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/dr-ronx-how-to-save-a-life/>

### **Laugh Out Loud with The Lollies Winners!**

Sun 23 Feb, 1.30pm, Purcell Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets from £10. For ages 6+.

Expect lots of laughs from the shortlist for 2024's Laugh Out Loud Book Awards, The Lollies celebrate the best and funniest children's books, voted for by children. We're joined by authors and illustrators from the amazing shortlist for an event jam-packed with jokes.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/lunchtime-with-the-lollies-awards/>

### **CBeebies Wildlife Jamboree**

Sun 23 Feb, 1pm & 3.15pm, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £12. For ages 5+.

Come along with Duggee, the Squirrels and lots more CBeebies friends to celebrate the natural world. Look forward to songs, music, lots of fun and opportunities to join in and meet new wildlife friends at the Cbeebies Wildlife Jamboree with the BBC Concert Orchestra.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/cbeebies-wildlife-jamboree/>

### **Prancer the Dancer's DanceDanceDiscoPartyFunShow**

*Sun 23 Feb , 10.30am & 1.30pm, The Clore Ballroom, Level 2, Royal Festival Hall. Free. For all ages.*

Prancer the Dancer invites you to tear up the dance floor and power the disco with collective electric dance energy at a fun-filled party. Featuring special guests, dance routines to learn together and gymnastics ribbons a plenty, join Prancer for a fab night out (but in the daytime).

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/prancer-the-dancers-dancedancediscopartyfunshow/>

### **Athena Kugblenu: History's Most Epic Fibs**

*Sun 23 Feb, 3.30pm, Purcell Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets from £10. For ages 6+.*

History is full of brave knights, fearsome queens, legendary explorers and heroic stories, passed down through the ages. But is it all true? Comedian and writer Athena Kugblenu is here to debunk fact from fiction from throughout history.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/athena-kugblenu-historys-most-epic-fibs/>

## **SCHOOL EVENTS**

### **Schools Performance: Bach and the Noisy Nighttime**

*Wed 12 Feb, 10am, 11,15am, 12.30pm and 1.45pm, The Clore Ballroom, Level 2, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets £110 per class of up to 30 children. For ages 3 – 6. Event Information: This is a schools event.*

Experience one of Aurora Orchestra's immersive, storytelling performances, featuring a chamber arrangement of Bach's *Goldberg Variations* and an original story from Aurora Writer in Residence, Kate Wakeling. School groups are invited to listen, sing, dance and enter a magical world of music, discovery and play.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/schools-performance-bach-and-the-noisy-nighttime/>

### **Schools Event: World Book Day 2025**

*Thurs 13 Feb, 10.30am & 12.30pm, Purcell Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall. Free. For KS2 Pupils. Event Information: This is a schools event.*

Join us for a fun-packed schools event, featuring Kiran Millwood Hargrave and other authors and illustrators, showcasing their brand new World Book Day books. Hosted by poet and performer Kenny Baraka, this event celebrates children's reading choices, with lots of joining-in and participation, led by Seven Stories, The National Centre for Children's Books.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/schools-event-world-book-day-2025/>

### **Schools Preview: There's A Bear on My Chair**

*Fri 14 Feb, 11am, Queen Elizabeth Hall. For KS1 Pupils. Event Information: This is a schools event.*

Join us for a special preview for Reception and KS1 classes as the beloved story of Bear and Mouse comes to the stage for the first time.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/schools-preview-theres-a-bear-on-my-chair/>

**#ENDS#**

## About the Southbank Centre

The Southbank Centre is the UK's largest arts centre, occupying 11 acres along the river and its 4 venues anchor 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. 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 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/](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/)



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