

**SOUTHBANK  
CENTRE**

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**Press Release**

**For Immediate Release**, Monday 1 December 2025, 10am

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Press images [HERE](#)

## **Goalhanger and the Southbank Centre announce The Rest Is Fest programme**

The Rest Is Fest will take over the Southbank Centre for an exclusive weekend of live events, as Europe's largest arts centre celebrates its 75th anniversary

Fri 4 – Sun 6 Sep 2026

[WATCH THE VIDEO HERE](#)



Gary Lineker, Co-Founder of Goalhanger at the Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall

Photo by Hugo Glendinning for the Southbank Centre

The Southbank Centre in collaboration with Goalhanger today unveils the programme for **Goalhanger: The Rest Is Fest** - a major new festival bringing together some of the world's most popular voices to explore the stories shaping our world - from history and politics to science, sport, and culture.

Taking place across the Southbank Centre's iconic site, this landmark collaboration between Europe's largest arts centre and one of the world's largest independent podcast producers is a highlight of the centre's 75th anniversary celebrations in 2026.

In 1951 the Festival of Britain was created to celebrate the best of British innovation and propel the nation forward toward an optimistic future - **The Rest Is Fest** promises to take the spirit of the festival and look to the future with a live programme brimming with ideas, curiosity, and conversation.

Taking place in the Royal Festival Hall, the Queen Elizabeth Hall, the Purcell Room and smaller spaces across the site, the programme boasts a range of intimate and large scale live shows, featuring established names and renowned experts.

**Highlights include:**

- **Exploring the future** - and what it holds - was a central idea of the Festival of Britain and is a key theme that runs through the whole weekend, as Goalhanger's biggest shows tackle the forces shaping tomorrow: democracy and global politics, money, media, science, history, entertainment, and even football
- Gary Lineker, Alan Shearer, and Micah Richards will take to the Royal Festival Hall stage to present the **first ever live version of *The Rest Is Football*** (4 Sep)
- ***The Rest Is Money*** hosted by Robert Peston and Steph McGovern will also be live on stage for the first time, featuring a big name guest, yet to be announced (4 Sep)
- The biggest history podcast in the world - ***The Rest Is History*** - takes centre stage at the Southbank Centre for a live show exploring the most fascinating historical stories of all time (5 Sep)
- The nation's most popular political podcast ***The Rest Is Politics*** with Alastair Campbell and Rory Stewart will be live on stage, discussing how AI-powered disinformation and populism infect our newsfeeds and public sphere (6 Sep)
- Unique collaborations, special one-offs and a few surprises will complete the lineup - yet to be announced

Further programming to be announced.

**Gary Lineker, Co-founder of Goalhanger & Co-host Of The Rest Is Football said:** *“The Southbank Centre was created in 1951 - even before I was born - to make the arts and culture more accessible to all - and that’s a mission we can really get behind. From the Festival of Britain until now, the Southbank Centre has been the beating heart of London’s cultural life and we’re excited to respond to this major milestone with a festival of ideas across their iconic site. From the future and what it holds to intriguing stories about our history and cultural life, this takeover will be a series of truly unmissable conversations.”*

**Marina Hyde, Co-host of The Rest Is Entertainment, said:** *“What fun to be involved in this. I absolutely love the Southbank Centre and can’t wait to be part of its 75th anniversary celebrations - not via the medium of interpretive dance, but the medium of The Rest is Fest. Not only will there be some special Rest is Entertainment live shows, but we’ll also be crossing the streams with other Goalhanger shows, a wild experiment that could be a) a huge laugh or b) a lab experiment that goes wrong and gives two of us - possibly Sandbrook and Shearer - mutant superpowers. Do join us to find out which.”*

**Mark Ball, Artistic Director of the Southbank Centre, said:** *“In a fast-paced world of rising misinformation, it’s now more important than ever that the Southbank Centre provides a democratic, trusted space for open discussion, debate and new ideas. In our 75th anniversary year, we’re thrilled to be collaborating with the UK’s most pioneering podcast producer Goalhanger, on their seismic **The Rest Is Fest** takeover, bringing each of their acclaimed podcasts to a live audience across the whole of the Southbank Centre site. We’re looking forward to welcoming audiences to explore society’s big issues and consider what the future holds.”*

### **How to book tickets**

Tickets go on sale to Goalhanger and Southbank Centre Members on Thursday 4 December 10am and to the general public on Thursday 11 December, 10am, at [southbankcentre.co.uk](https://southbankcentre.co.uk)

For more information about the Southbank Centre’s 75th anniversary celebrations, visit [southbankcentre.co.uk/our-75th-anniversary](https://southbankcentre.co.uk/our-75th-anniversary)

**# ENDS #**

### **Programme details**

Further programming to be announced.

### **GOALHANGER: THE REST IS FEST | THE REST IS MONEY: LIVE**

*Friday 4 September, 7.30pm, Purcell Room*

Robert Peston and Steph McGovern take the audience on a journey, starting from the credit crunch in 2008 and going right through to Trump's tariffs in 2025 – and their first-hand experience of reporting on both. They also chat about their biggest interviews with tech billionaires, chancellors and some of the most divisive people in politics.

### **GOALHANGER: THE REST IS FEST | THE REST IS FOOTBALL: BURSTING ONTO THE STAGE**

*Friday 4 September, 8.30pm, Royal Festival Hall*

The boys have a review of the FIFA World Cup and the new 2026 season that you'll want to hear – but they also take you behind the scenes of some of their most memorable moments, both on and off the pitch.

### **GOALHANGER: THE REST IS FEST | EMPIRE: BOOZE AND BREWS**

*Sunday 5 September, 1pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall*

From India Pale Ale to the gin and tonic and a humble cup of tea – both booze and brews are completely intertwined in the history of the British Empire. Anita Anand and Willie Dalrymple, both historians and authors, explore the intricate stories of power struggles and territorial conquests that shaped, and continue to influence, world history.

### **GOALHANGER: THE REST IS FEST | SHERLOCK & CO.**

*Saturday 5 September, 4pm, Purcell Room*

221B Baker Street invites you to witness a brand-new tale featuring John, Mariana and, of course, Sherlock Holmes. The cast of the beloved audio drama perform an original story that was written exclusively for the Southbank Centre stage.

### **GOALHANGER: THE REST IS FEST | THE REST IS HISTORY: LIVE**

*Saturday 5 September, 4pm, Royal Festival Hall*

Historians Tom Holland and Dominic Sandbrook's combination of penetrating knowledge, wit and superbly judged accents have sold out shows across the UK, Australia and the United States. Touching on the bloody amphitheatres of Ancient Rome; Montezuma and the fall of the Aztecs; the Napoleonic Wars and Nelson's mastery of the seas; Hitler's rise to power and the Second World War; and the calamities of 1970s Britain, *The Rest Is History* retells the tales that have shaped humanity with bombast, drama and historical precision.

### **GOALHANGER: THE REST IS FEST | THE REST IS ENTERTAINMENT: LIVE**

*Saturday 5 September, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall*

Join Richard Osman and Marina Hyde as they pull back the curtain on television, movies, celebrities and much more in their riotous live show. Who are the greatest- and worst-behaved people in Hollywood? The pair rank their own ultimate heroes and villains of entertainment history (hopefully, they get it in the right order...). This is the ultimate evening of excess, with the gossip and scandal you've come to expect from the UK's favourite entertainment podcast.

### **GOALHANGER: THE REST IS FEST | WE HAVE WAYS OF MAKING YOU TALK**

*Sunday 6 September, 4pm, Purcell Room*

Hosts Al Murray and James Holland argue the fiercest (and most serious) debates, including Bren or MG42? Spitfire or Hurricane? Monty or Alex? Come along and find out the answers for yourself.

### **GOALHANGER: THE REST IS FEST | THE REST IS POLITICS: US TRUMP ON A KNIFE EDGE**

*Sunday 6 September, 4pm, Royal Festival Hall*

The year 2026 marks a pivotal moment in Donald Trump's second term: Americans head to the polls in the mid-term elections to decide the fate of the Trumpian reign. Journalist Katty Kay and former

White House communications director Anthony Scaramucci reveal secrets from inside the White House inner circles, as well as taking a wider look at the intricacies of the society of the United States and how they shape the world's most important economy. After a decade of MAGA politics, will the nation pull itself back from the brink, or is Trump's strongman populism only gaining momentum?

### **GOALHANGER: THE REST IS FEST | THE REST IS POLITICS: OFF THE RECORD**

*Sunday 6 September, 7pm, Royal Festival Hall*

Hosts Rory Stewart and Alastair Campbell are back, bringing their trademark art of disagreeing agreeably live to the stage. As AI-powered disinformation and populism infect our newsfeeds and public sphere, writer and former politician Rory Stewart and journalist-turned-strategist Alastair Campbell ask how democracy can survive in its current state. The nation's most popular political podcast takes on the biggest stories, both at home and abroad.

### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

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Press accreditation by application only, opening in Spring 2026. Spaces are limited. Get in touch with [press@southbankcentre.co.uk](mailto:press@southbankcentre.co.uk)

### **PRESS IMAGES**

Press images [HERE](#)

### **About Goalhanger**

Goalhanger is the UK's largest independent podcast producer and the biggest outside the US - creating chart-topping, story-first shows across history, politics, sport, business, entertainment, culture, and audio drama. Our shows include The Rest Is History, The Rest Is Politics, Empire, The Rest Is Entertainment, The Rest Is Politics: US, Leading, The Rest Is Money, Journey Through Time, The Rest Is Football, Sherlock & Co., The Rest Is Classified, The Rest Is Football: Daily Brightness, and We Have Ways of Making You Talk. We reach tens of millions each month across long-form audio, video, and live events - with over 400 million downloads in 2024, and more than 1 billion lifetime streams. But Goalhanger is more than just a podcast network. We're a new-generation cultural media brand: talent-first, story-led, proudly independent, and built on trust - not trends. We build loyal communities, fuel word-of-mouth discovery, and create IP with real cultural impact. In a media landscape defined by change, Goalhanger stands apart. Media made to last - one great conversation at a time.

## 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), two resident organisations (Kinetika Bloco and Tomorrow's Warriors) 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](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk)



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