

SOUTHBANK CENTRE

Press Release

Date: Wednesday 24 March 2021, 9.00am

Contact: press@southbankcentre.co.uk

Press images: [HERE](#)

Southbank Centre will reopen to audiences in May and present an ambitious summer of artistic activity

- The **Hayward Gallery** will reopen on 19 May and the **Royal Festival Hall** will reopen on 21 May, with the **National Poetry Library** and live events from 28 May.
- **Summer Reunion** will see the UK's largest multi-arts centre come back to life with outdoor events and world-class music-making across its iconic venues from May-August. Artists will include: **Anoushka Shankar, Nicola Benedetti, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Vladimir Jurowski, Mitsuko Uchida, Yefim Bronfman, Colin Currie Group** with **Steve Reich**.
- **In the Green Room**, a 10-week series of in-depth conversations between the Southbank Centre's curators and global artists is revealed, including **Steve Reich & Colin Currie, Igshaan Adams, Alicja Kwade, Max Porter** and **Rufus Wainwright** with further names to be announced in due course.
- **Inside Out** continues with a newly-announced partnership with Netflix for a one-off event with **Aaron Sorkin**.



Credit: Royal Festival Hall © India Roper-Evans; Hayward Gallery © Pete Woodhead; Queen Elizabeth Hall © Pete Woodhead

The Southbank Centre today confirms the dates for the reopening of its venues after a year of closure due to the pandemic.

The **Hayward Gallery** will reopen with [Matthew Barney: Redoubt](#) and [Igshaan Adams: Kicking Dust](#) from 19 May – 25 July 2021. The **Royal Festival Hall** will reopen on 21 May, with the National Poetry Library and concerts in front of socially distanced audiences from 28 May ahead of reopening to full audiences on 21 June, subject to government guidance.

The UK's largest multi-arts centre will launch **Summer Reunion**, a four-month programme of events across its entire site, safely welcoming audiences back for a vibrant summer of music, art, literature and dance. From indoor concerts to outdoor stages, the Southbank Centre will platform a diverse array of artists, from homegrown talent to globally-known artists.

This will be the first time audiences have been able to return to one of London's most iconic and popular concert halls since March 2020. The Queen Elizabeth Hall will open in early August and the Purcell Room in September.

Key highlights will include: Esa-Pekka Salonen's final two concerts as the Philharmonia Orchestra's Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor - he'll be joined by Mitsuko Uchida and Yefim Bronfman; the London Philharmonic Orchestra with Vladimir Jurowski as he makes his final appearance, before taking the title Conductor Emeritus; the Colin Currie Group with Steve Reich's *Music for 18 Musicians*, performed three times in one day; Anoushka Shankar who continues her role as Associate Artist; Aurora Orchestra with Nicola Benedetti; and Chineke! who launch the season. The Southbank Centre's annual programme *Imagine a Story* culminates in a special one-off event, nationwide youth music partners will be welcomed back, and a range of community projects will reunite the venue with its local audiences, as part of its wider Arts & Wellbeing programme. Full programming will be announced soon.

On 30 April the popular weekly street food market returns, alongside riverside pop-ups including Jimmy's infamous BBQ Club, offering the perfect destination for visitors in the heart of London during what is sure to be a buzzing summer for Londoners eager to escape months of lockdown.

Meanwhile, ***In the Green Room*** - announced today - and ***Inside Out*** will continue to bring arts and culture to online audiences at home, reflecting the vital role that streamed arts activity has played throughout the pandemic to help combat social isolation and loneliness. The Southbank Centre will look to develop a long-term, hybrid multi-art programme to broaden its audience reach internationally.

Looking beyond London, ***Art by Post***, in association with the National Academy of Social Prescribing and nationwide strategic partners will continue to support those experiencing isolation and those in social care settings across the country. The Arts Council Collection celebrates its 75th anniversary this year with an array of programming and partnerships around the country, including the launch of ***Breaking the Mould: Sculpture by Women since 1945*** in May at Longside Gallery, Yorkshire Sculpture Park. Hayward Gallery Touring's landmark exhibition ***British Art Show 9*** will open in Aberdeen in July before touring to Wolverhampton, Manchester and Plymouth.

Summer Reunion's May – June events will be announced on 14 April; July – August events will be unveiled on 1 June. A final slate of ***Inside Out*** events from the Resident Orchestras will be announced on 30 March. An update on ***Grace Jones' Meltdown*** will be given in early April.

Despite closure, 2020 was a year of significant cultural impact for the Southbank Centre. From the Hayward Gallery reopening with *Among the Trees*, to over 90 streamed events from *Inside Out*, our ongoing global series of gigs, concerts, and talks. There were three outdoor exhibitions: *Everyday Heroes* - marking the vital contribution of our keyworkers - *Phenomenal Women* - celebrating Black female Professors in Higher Education, and *Winter Lights*. The centre also launched a critically acclaimed exhibition by Hayward Gallery Touring - *Not Without My Ghosts*, the first-ever digital *Unlimited* festival and *Art By Post* which ensured that those experiencing loneliness or social-isolation could enjoy art at home.

Elaine Bedell, Chief Executive, Southbank Centre, says:

"It's been a year since we closed the doors of our wonderful Southbank Centre and we cannot wait to throw them open again and to welcome back our incredible artists and performers and much-missed audiences. Our world class concert halls will be ringing with music and applause once again, there

will be two extraordinary exhibitions to enjoy in the Hayward Gallery and our scenic river terraces will be humming with activity. There will be something for everyone. Come and reunite with us!"

IN THE GREEN ROOM

Also announced today is ***In the Green Room***, a 10-week series of in-depth conversations between Southbank Centre's curators and programmers and the globally-known artists, friends and collaborators they have welcomed to the Southbank Centre over the years. These events will be streamed every Monday evening on YouTube Premieres from 12 April – 14 June.

This brand-new series is the culmination of the Southbank Centre's streaming programme, ***Inside Out*** which has been bringing exclusive content to audiences globally and here in the UK since last September. The first names announced are: **Steve Reich & Colin Currie** (12 April), **Alicja Kwade** (19 April), **Iqshaan Adams** (26 April), **Max Porter** (3 May) and **Rufus Wainwright** (10 May). Names for events from 17 May - 11 June will be announced soon.

Hosted by Southbank Centre's curators, they'll speak 1-1 with these artists, friends and collaborators, sharing candid anecdotes of time spent at the much-loved arts & cultural centre, and engaging in topical discussion relevant to these times.

INSIDE OUT

Screenwriter, playwright, producer and director **Aaron Sorkin** joins the Southbank Centre's ongoing ***Inside Out*** programme for an in-depth conversation centred on his latest Academy-Award© and Bafta nominated film, *The Trial of the Chicago 7*. Co-presented with Netflix, the platform that gave the film its premiere, this exclusive event will see the much-loved writer take audiences behind the scenes of this highly-acclaimed film as awards-season approaches. This event will be broadcast at 7.30pm on Wednesday 31 March. Tickets will be £5 and available to the general public from Wednesday 24 March via southbankcentre.co.uk.

Previously announced *Inside Out* events yet to be streamed globally include: **London Philharmonic Orchestra: 'The New World'** (24 March), **Hanif Abdurraqib** (25 March), **Philharmonia Orchestra: 'Beethoven & Mozart'** (25 March), **Out-Spoken** (28 March), **London Philharmonic Orchestra: 'Towards Freedom'** (31 March), **Philharmonia Orchestra: 'Tchaikovsky & Sibelius'** (1 April), **Kazuo and Naomi Ishiguro** (5 April), **London Philharmonic Orchestra: 'London Calling'** (7 April), **London Philharmonic Orchestra: 'Bohemian Rhapsodies'** (14 April), **London Philharmonia Orchestra: 'The Emperor Concerto'** (21 April), **London Philharmonic Orchestra: 'La Vie Parisienne'** (28 April), **Olivia Laing** (30 April) and **Jhumpa Lahiri** (6 May). Full *Inside Out* listings are available [here](#).

ENDS

For further press information please contact:
press@southbankcentre.co.uk

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FURTHER EVENT INFORMATION

The Hayward Gallery new opening times:

11am – 7pm, Wednesday – Saturday

10am – 6pm, Sunday

Closed Monday and Tuesday

About the Southbank Centre

The Southbank Centre is the UK's largest arts centre and one of the UK's top five visitor attractions, occupying a prominent riverside location 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. The 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)