

SOUTHBANK CENTRE

Press Release

Date: Monday 5 February 2024, 9.30am

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Images: [HERE](#)

Listings: [HERE](#)

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Southbank Centre announces International Performance & Dance programme for 2024-2025



L-R: The QDance Company's *re:INCARNATION*, Photo © Herve Veronese (Nigeria)
Cliff Cardinal's *As You Like It: A Radical Retelling*, Photo © Dahlia Katz (Canada)
Łukasz Twarkowski's *The Employees*, Image © Natalia Kabanow (Poland)

The 2024-2025 international programme highlights include:

- A string of bold physical UK dance premieres from international companies and artists including **Shechter II: *From England with Love***, Qudus Onikeku / The QDance Company's ***Re:INCARNATION***, ***In My Body*** by Crazy Smooth and **Chunky Move's 4/4**, choreographed by Antony Hamilton.
- The UK debut of Poland's new star theatre director **Łukasz Twarkowski** with part-installation part-theatre work ***The Employees***.
- The return of **London International Festival of Theatre** with two daring shows; Cliff Cardinal's ***William Shakespeare's As You Like It: A Radical Retelling*** and Nadia Beugré: ***L'Homme rare***.
- **Forced Entertainment** marks its 40th anniversary with a London-wide season of work including two new works and a revival at the Southbank Centre.
- A weekend of new performance work from South East Asia; ***Dragon Ladies Don't Weep*** (Singapore) and ***Haribo Kimchi*** (South Korea).

- The long-awaited London premiere of **Adrienne Truscott** and Dublin's **Brokentalkers Masterclass**.

The Southbank Centre today announces its 2024-2025 Performance and Dance programme, featuring an array of international work, contemporary collaborations and brand-new work from award-winning companies and artists from the UK, Ireland, Nigeria, Poland, Australia, Canada and beyond. Boldly international and with a mix of new commissions and UK premieres that reinforce the Southbank Centre's status as a creative engine for arts and culture, this programme will introduce audiences to adventurous, influential and up-and-coming artists for unforgettable experiences.

Aaron Wright, Head of Performance & Dance at the Southbank Centre, says: *"Over the coming year some extraordinary companies and artists from across the world will grace the stages of the Southbank Centre as part of this major Performance & Dance programme. We're continuing our love affair with dance, presenting highly physical and visually unique performances that will appeal to both new and committed dance audiences alike. Following our groundbreaking 2023 season, headlined by the Marina Abramović Institute Takeover of the Queen Elizabeth Hall, we continue to present daring works that demonstrate theatre to be a vital, contemporary artform and are certain to get people talking."*

Mark Ball, Artistic Director at the Southbank Centre, says: *"The Southbank Centre has always been an engine of creativity - this international programme brings pioneering artists to London, often for the first time. It's a testament to the scale of our ambition in performance and dance as we continue to ensure the Southbank Centre is providing audiences with a truly diverse offering."*

Building on the Southbank Centre's vibrant history as a place for dance across its stages and public spaces, the season opens with new work from **Hofesh Shechter: From England with Love**. Performed by **Shechter II From England with Love** is a paean to the multi-layered complexity that is England. Through Shechter's choreography, the dancers will evoke the paradox at the heart of this open, generous and soul-searching land, conflicted by its dark history and powerful attachment to deep-rooted traditions. They draw us into their search for identity and self-knowledge as they grapple with this complex system of values. Performed to an original score composed by Shechter, this new piece will bring together the beauty, wit and invention of the best of English classical composers, presented in a clash with raging rock alongside echoes of choral song and electronics in an avant-garde cacophony.

Presented in partnership with Dance Consortium, Nigeria's much celebrated **The QDance Company** led by choreographer Qudus Onikeku makes its debut on the Queen Elizabeth Hall stage with **Re:INCARNATION**. An ode to the richness of Nigerian culture, this dance, music, fashion and visual art fusion mixes ancient Yoruba philosophy mixed with Nigerian youth culture. Ten young dancers and two musicians perform the cycle of life with explosive energy, marked by the creative urban energy of the Nigerian city of Lagos.

The UK Premiere of **4/4** by Australian dance company **Chunky Move** sees eight dancers perform a display of mesmerising movement in Antony Hamilton's blueprint for choreographic precision and physical endurance. The diversity in the dancers' artistic backgrounds in krump, freestyle hip-hop and

house, coupled with Hamilton's striking craftsmanship and a minimal scenography, highlights a uniquely Australian performance.

For one weekend only in May, the Southbank Centre presents two new performance works from South East Asia. ***Dragon Ladies Don't Weep*** is a sonic portrait of new music icon Margaret Leng Tan – an evocative exploration of memory, time, control and loss. ***Haribo Kimchi*** takes audiences on a journey through the history of South Korea through the familiar, startling and sacred language of food.

Canada's b-boy **Crazy Smooth** presents ***In My Body***, a dynamic exploration of the effects of ageing on the street dancer's entire being – body, mind and spirit. Crazy Smooth has assembled an intergenerational all-star cast of five men and four women comprised of Canada's top street dancers, who execute the physically demanding and visually impressive choreography alongside projections and spoken word. The performance features an original soundtrack by DJ Shash'U and is written by Alejandro Rodriguez.

In January 2025, Polish theatre artist **Łukasz Twarkowski** brings ***The Employees***, a production of STUDIO teatr Galeria (Warsaw), to the UK for the first time, in a ground-breaking and innovative multidisciplinary play that explores the relationship between humans and robots, using images and sound the piece looks at ideas of human consciousness and desires. Set millions of kilometres away from Earth and in a distant future, it brings up many problems of contemporary reality – the crisis of relationships between humans and nature in the face of an increasingly technology-driven society. The script of the play by Joanna Bednarczyk is based on the International Booker Prize-nominated novel *The Employees* by Danish author Olga Ravn.

Returning to present two exciting new works in partnership with the Southbank Centre, **London International Festival of Theatre (LIFT)** returns in June with ***William Shakespeare's As You Like It: A Radical Retelling*** by cultural provocateur Cliff Cardinal and ***L'Homme rare*** choreographed by Nadia Beugré. Exulting in dark humour, difficult subject matter, and raw emotion *As You Like It: A Radical Retelling* explores the double meaning that teasingly suggests this is a play to please all tastes. In Nadia Beugré's *L'Homme rare*, the audience takes the role of voyeur as this new dance work interrogates perceptions of gender and objectification. Drawing inspiration from a series of old photographs of enslaved people for sale in markets on the Ivory Coast, *L'Homme rare* also becomes a reflection on the history of Europeans' gaze on black bodies and its persistence today.

Multi-award-winning, hugely influential and globally renowned, Sheffield-based theatre company **Forced Entertainment** celebrates its 40th year with a special London-wide programme of work in partnership with the Southbank Centre, Battersea Arts Centre and The Place. In October, they will bring three shows to the Southbank Centre, the UK premiere of their new mainstage ensemble work ***Signal to Noise***, the first-ever performance of a new collaboration between Forced Entertainment's Artistic Director Tim Etchells & acclaimed percussionist Tony Buck (The Necks): ***Go On Like This***, and the revival of their classic durational work, ***12am: Awake and Looking Down***.

New work *Signal to Noise* is an invitation to reflect on our shared contemporary experience, developed through the group's rigorous and intuitive collaborative process as six performers navigate a world of constraints, traps, behavioural habits and repeating cycles. *Tim Etchells & Tony Buck: Go On Like This* is a performance encounter between artist and writer Tim Etchells and percussionist

Tony Buck, founder-member of Australian trio The Necks. The two artists share a fascination with the possibilities of both free improvisation and intensive repetition, bringing them together for an evening of loops and cacophonies. *12am: Awake and Looking Down* is a piece with five silent performers using simple dress-up, inhabiting a seemingly endless parade of characters in a transfixing performance that questions what's in a name. A physical and highly visual performance that starts from a vast and constantly growing catalogue of names – from 'Frank (Drunk)' to 'The Hypnotised Girl', via 'Elvis Presley (the Dead Singer)' and 'A Nine Year-Old Shepherd Boy', the piece plays on exhaustion and endurance to create a unique event that is comic, mesmeric and moving.

Acclaimed New York City provocateur **Adrienne Truscott** and the internationally renowned **Brokentalkers** from Dublin bring their collaboration **Masterclass** to London. Speaking truth to power, *Masterclass* is a hilarious examination of gender and power, using the arts world as a metaphor under the guise of a pompous TV talk show. This much anticipated London run follows an award-winning international tour.

The 2024 season includes a previously announced show. From 1-3 March, **(LA)HORDE** and **Ballet national de Marseille** debut their first major presentation in London, as they present the UK premiere of **Roommates**, an evening which features six pieces made for the company from choreographers including Lucinda Childs, Peeping Tom and LA(HORDE) themselves. This show is already on sale.

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

Tickets for the newly announced main season go on sale to Southbank Centre's Members on Tuesday 6 February, 10am and to the general public on Wednesday 7 February, 10am
www.southbankcentre.co.uk / 0203 879 9555

Full event listings [HERE](#)

Further Summer and Winter 2024 shows to be announced.

DATES AND PR CONTACTS

Hofesh Shechter: From England with Love

Performed by **Shechter II**

Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall, 17 - 20 April 2024 (UK Premiere)

Press night: Thursday 18 April

Contact: cliona@crpr.co.uk

Brokentalkers' & Adrienne Truscott's Masterclass

Kindly Supported by Culture Ireland

Southbank Centre's Purcell Room, 9 - 12 May 2024 (London Premiere)

Press night: Wednesday 9 May

Contact: louise.gilbert@southbankcentre.co.uk

Dragon Ladies Don't Weep

Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall, 24 - 25 May 2024 (UK Premiere)

Contact: press@southbankcentre.co.uk

Haribo Kimchi

Southbank Centre's Purcell Room, 24 - 26 May 2024 (UK Premiere)

Contact: press@southbankcentre.co.uk

Southbank Centre and LIFT present

William Shakespeare's As You Like It: A Radical Retelling by Cliff Cardinal

Presented as part of LIFT 2024

Southbank Centre's Purcell Room, 5 - 9 June 2024 (London Premiere)

Contacts: chloe@breadandbutterpr.uk; kate@breadandbutterpr.uk; ben@breadandbutterpr.uk

Southbank Centre and LIFT present

Nadia Beugré: L'Homme rare

Presented as part of LIFT 2024

Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall, 12 - 13 June 2024 (UK Premiere)

Contacts: chloe@breadandbutterpr.uk; kate@breadandbutterpr.uk; ben@breadandbutterpr.uk

Crazy Smooth: In My Body

Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall, 18 - 20 July 2024 (UK Premiere)

Press night: Thursday 18 July

Contact: louise.gilbert@southbankcentre.co.uk

The QDance Company: Re:INCARNATION

Presented with Dance Consortium

Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall, 18 - 19 September 2024 (UK Premiere)

Press night: Wednesday 18 September

Contact: martha@marthaoakespr.co.uk and sue@marthaoakespr.co.uk

Forced Entertainment: Signal to Noise

Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall, 10 - 11 October 2024 (UK Premiere)

Press night: Thursday 10 October

Contact: clair@breadandbutterpr.uk

Forced Entertainment: Tim Etchells & Tony Buck: Go On Like This

Southbank Centre's Purcell Room, 12 - 13 October 2024

Press night: Saturday 12 October

Contact: clair@breadandbutterpr.uk

Forced Entertainment: 12am: Awake and Looking Down

Southbank Centre's Clore Ballroom, 9 November 2024

Contact: clair@breadandbutterpr.uk

Antony Hamilton's 4/4**Chunky Move (Australia)**

Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall, 8 - 9 November 2024 (UK Premiere)

Press night: Friday 8 November

Contact: louise.gilbert@southbankcentre.co.uk

Łukasz Twarkowski: The Employees

Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall, 16 - 19 January 2025 (UK Premiere)

Contact: louise.gilbert@southbankcentre.co.uk

Performance and Dance at the Southbank Centre

In April 2023, Aaron Wright joined the Southbank Centre as Head of Performance and Dance, beginning work on leading the long-term strategy for Performance and Dance, including dance, theatre, comedy and live art and building relationships and partnerships with artists, producers and organisations to develop innovative projects and programmes. Previously Artistic Director at Fierce in Birmingham, Aaron reports to Mark Ball, Artistic Director. For more information on Aaron's appointment please see [here](#).

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



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