

# SOUTHBANK CENTRE

---

Date: Friday 30 August 10am

Contact: [phoebe.gardiner@southbankcentre.co.uk](mailto:phoebe.gardiner@southbankcentre.co.uk) / 0207 921 0967

Images: downloadable [here](#)

## Southbank Centre announces *futuretense*, a weekly showcase of new music talent



L-R: Nikita Bassi, Kyra, Agit Gill

Today, Southbank Centre announces *futuretense*: a high-profile public performance platform presenting the best untapped talent in British and international new music, every Friday, for free.

Launching **Friday 6 September**, *futuretense* runs weekly at 6pm in the newly refurbished Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer. Attendance is free and no booking is required.

The initiative is part of Southbank Centre's commitment to developing artists and supporting the creative industries. It replaces the previous free gig slot Friday Tonic. It is a hot spot for audiences to discover their next favourite band, an enviable development and showcase opportunity for artists and a regular fixture on the professional A&R circuit, presenting cherry-picked talent each week for agents, promoters, record labels and music publishers to discover future stars.

It is delivered in collaboration with **BBC Music Introducing**, BBC Radio's platform for supporting under-the-radar UK talent, and with Southbank Centre's long-time creative learning partners, the innovative jazz music education and artist development organisation **Tomorrow's Warriors**. Once a month, a BBC Music Introducing act will be selected from their nation-wide roster to play *futuretense*. Every two months, Tomorrow's Warriors will do the same.

**Head of Contemporary Music at Southbank Centre, Bengi Ünsal**, said:

*“As the UK’s largest arts centre, we’re in a unique position to bring together artists, audience and industry. We have the ecology to support artists at each step of their career, from their first futuretense gig, through performances in Purcell Room, Queen Elizabeth Hall and the 3,000-capacity Royal Festival Hall - all the way to being the next Meltdown curator. And with our enviable location, open doors and programming bringing more than 4.5 million visitors to our site each year, futuretense offers huge potential for the artists we’ll showcase.*”

*“Along with the powerhouse teams at Tomorrow’s Warriors - whose influence on the London Jazz renaissance cannot be understated - and BBC Music Introducing - the preeminent national platform for new music of all genres - I’m excited to put our name behind some of the incredible new artists coming out of this country and abroad, and to play a part in their success and the future of the industry.”*

**Millie Carter, BBC Music Introducing Production Co-ordinator**, said:

*“BBC Music Introducing supports unsigned, undiscovered and under the radar music across the UK. With upwards of 500,000 tracks uploaded to the BBC Music Introducing website and over 200,000 artists registered, Introducing provides a network dedicated to supporting the best emerging talent from across the UK. The 36 local Introducing teams have been forwarding artists to perform at futuretense and we are really excited to collaborate with Southbank Centre.”*

On her experience playing at Southbank Centre, composer and musician **Poppy Ackroyd** said:

*“It has always been an ambition to play at Southbank Centre and so far I have performed there as a soloist twice - a free concert in the Foyer, and a full electronic set with visuals in the beautiful new Purcell Room. In both cases I had full support from the venue and technical teams. This support makes all the difference, allowing you to just focus on the music and performance. I can’t wait to go back and perform there again in the Queen Elizabeth Hall in November.”*

futuretense runs weekly, Fridays at 6pm, Southbank Centre’s Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer (unless otherwise advertised). Attendance is free and no booking is required.

[www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/festivals-series/future-tense](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/festivals-series/future-tense)

## **FUTURETENSE LISTINGS**

### **FUTURETENSE: AJIT GILL // NIKITA BASSI**

**Presented in collaboration with BBC Music Introducing**

6 September 2019, Southbank Centre’s Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer, 5.30pm, free, no ticket required

Two top talents from BBC Music Introducing kick off the very first futuretense. Drummer and producer Ajit Gill weaves a progressive, jazz inspired set, flirting with the sounds of hip-hop, electronic soul and all kinds of exotic melody. Ajit will showcase songs from his main project, Vertaal, who have been selling out some of London’s biggest jazz venues. Hailing from the West Midlands, Nikita Bassi

demonstrates her self-produced sound - distinctively delicate yet dusky and mixed with an array of world instrumentation which predominantly hints at her Punjabi-Indian heritage.

#### **FUTURETENSE: AFRONAUGHT ZU**

*13 September 2019, Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer, 6pm, free, no ticket required*  
Part of Africa Utopia

A powerhouse of sound, Afronaut Zu blends hip hop and afrobeat into soul-bearing melodies. He is a live vocalist for Rudimental, former lead singer for Damian Lazarus & The Ancient Moon and a member of London hip-hop collective Orphgang.

#### **FUTURETENSE: SUMI**

*4 October 2019, Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer, 6pm, free, no ticket required*  
Swedish-Japanese folk artist Sandra Sumie Nagano AKA Sumie performs from her delicate yet dynamic EP *Mirou*.

#### **FUTURETENSE: ALRO DAY**

**Presented in collaboration BBC Music Introducing**

*11 October 2019, Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer, 6pm, free, no ticket required*

A young songwriter and guitarist from South-East London, Arlo Day has gained a reputation as one of London's best kept secrets with her distinctive and timeless tones. Newly signed to Domino Records, she brings her unique ear for melody, haunting vocals and rumbling guitar tones to *futuretense*.

#### **FUTURETENSE: LEX AMOR**

Part of London Literature Festival

*18 October 2019, Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer, 6pm, free, no ticket required*

London-based rapper, DJ and producer Lex Amor presents her characterful slant on descriptive hip-hop at *futuretense*. Her peers and collaborators include Touching Bass, Steam Down and PAQ. She performs music from her upcoming mixtape, *Government Tropicana*.

#### **FUTURETENSE: SINEAD O BRIEN**

Part of London Literature Festival

*25 October 2019, Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer, 6pm, free, no ticket required*

Capturing the everyday and the in-between, the poet and performer Sinead O'Brien is equal parts rebel lyricist Mark E Smith and rock and roll poet Patti Smith. Her energetic performance features her band and collaborators, Julian Hanson (guitar) and Oscar Robertson (drums).

#### **FUTURETENSE: JOSIN**

*8 November 2019, Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer, 6pm, free, no ticket required*

Josin's first EP *Epilogue* introduced listeners to a soaring, moving and strikingly original fusion of neoclassical textures and inquisitive electronics. Josin comes to *futuretense* following the release of her first full length album *In The Blank Space* earlier this year.

#### **FUTURETENSE: ANIMAL SOCIETY**

Part of the EFG London Jazz Festival

*15 November 2019, Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer, 6pm, free, no ticket required*

Animal Society is a new sound in UK jazz, somewhere in the void between Rage Against The Machine, Pat Metheny and EST. Ringleader Joe Williamson, guitarist and winner of Young Scottish Jazz Musician Of The Year 2018, presents daring new electric jazz with the uncompromising power of a stadium rock band. Their live shows balance fiery grooves and heavy riffs with cinematic, ethereal soundscapes, performed by five musicians at the forefront of the new wave of Scottish Jazz.

### **FUTURETENSE: WU-LU**

*Part of the EFG London Jazz Festival*

*22 November 2019, Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer, 6pm, free, no ticket required*

Straddling two worlds of music, hip-hop and jazz, South London's Wu-Lu explores racial injustice, black empowerment and self-exploration in his latest EP *Save Us From Ourselves*. He brings his cross-genre brilliance to *futuretense*.

### **FUTURETENSE: KILLOWEN**

**Presented in collaboration BBC Music Introducing**

*29 November 2019, Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer, 6pm, free, no ticket required*

Musician, songwriter and producer Killowen brings shades of soul, alternative hip-hop, jazz, R'n'B and rock to his performances. Due to release new music at the end of this year, Killowen is breaking boundaries with recent songs 'Skyline', 'Pluto' and 'Let's Just Be Friends'.

### **FUTURETENSE: KYRA**

**Presented in collaboration BBC Music Introducing**

*13 December 2019, Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer, 6pm, free, no ticket required*

Electronic R'n'B singer-songwriter Kyra pairs powerful vocals with smooth electronic sounds. She has previously toured with Sigala and collaborated with high profile artists including Maverick Sabre, and Kojey Radical. This autumn, she is set to release her debut EP titled *Xanadu* with the first single 'Cause and Cure' making waves on its release in August.

### **FUTURETENSE: MYELE MANZANZA**

*20 December 2019, Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer, 6pm, free, no ticket required*

Celebrating the success of his album *A Love Requited* on First Word Records, the New Zealand drummer, composer and producer Myele Manzanza performs as part of *futuretense* at Southbank Centre. The son of a Congolese master percussionist, Manzanza brings an eclectic style and diverse skill to his craft to create a genre bending experience rooted in jazz and African rhythm.

---

# ENDS #

**Join the conversation:**

@southbankcentre #SCfuturetense

**For further press information, please contact:** Phoebe Gardiner, Press Manager:

[phoebe.gardiner@southbankcentre.co.uk](mailto:phoebe.gardiner@southbankcentre.co.uk) / 0207 921 0967

### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

#### **About Southbank Centre**

Southbank Centre is the UK's largest arts centre and one of the UK's top five visitor attractions, occupying a 17 acre site 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. 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).

### **Gigs & Contemporary Music at Southbank Centre**

Southbank Centre delivers a year-round programme of more than 200 gigs and contemporary music performances across its three main venues - Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall and Purcell Room - its public spaces and pop-up stages. The annual and award-winning *Meltdown* festival launched in 1993 and is the longest-running artist-curated music festival in the world, each year inviting a different cultural figure to act as curator. Previous curators include David Bowie, Yoko Ono, M.I.A and in 2019 Nile Rodgers. As well as fifty years of presenting global stars such as Frank Sinatra, Joni Mitchell, Jeff Buckley, Grace Jones, Nina Simone, Pink Floyd, The Cure and Nine Inch Nails, it gives a stage to the best rising talent each Friday for free in its *futuretense* series. The monthly club night *Concrete Lates* showcases underrepresented talent in international underground electronic music. And its outdoor summer stages entertain thousands of members of the public every year for free.