

# SOUTHBANK CENTRE

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## Press Release

Date: International Dance Day - Tuesday 29 April 2025, 10.00am

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Listings: [HERE](#)

## Spectacular dance to takeover the Southbank Centre's iconic site



*We Should Have Never Walked On The Moon* photo Theo Giacometti  
*Our Heartbeats: Unity in Motion* photo Hossam Fazulla

On International Dance Day, the Southbank Centre unveils a programme that promises unforgettable experiences for everyone. An engine of creativity, the Southbank Centre's programme brings together different artforms across the Summer, taking over the 11-acre site by the River Thames with *Dance Your Way Home*, followed by the UK Premiere of *We Should Have Never Walked On The Moon*.

- Fusing together dance, gigs, visual arts and poetry, ***Dance Your Way Home***, co-curated by Emma Warren takes over the site with a seismic programme celebrating all the ways that dance connects us all (23 Jul - 25 Aug).
- Ensuring the Southbank Centre is a home for everyone, the programme includes dozens of free events on a brand **new dancefloor** on the Riverside Terrace including ***Grief Rave*** (3 Aug) and Heart n Soul's ***Make Yourself! Be Yourself!*** (22 Aug).
- **Rambert** and **Ballet national de Marseille**, direction **(LA)HORDE** join forces to transform the entire Royal Festival Hall and wider site into a spectacular, large-scale

dance experience with the UK Premiere of ***We Should Have Never Walked On The Moon*** (3 - 6 Sep).

### **DANCE YOUR WAY HOME (23 Jul - 25 Aug)**

Images [HERE](#)

Inspired by the stories and spirit of Emma Warren's book of the same name, ***Dance Your Way Home*** is a celebration of the dance floors that have brought people together. Curated in collaboration with Emma Warren, the multi-artform programme explores what happens when communities get moving, wherever the dance floor may be - from our kitchens to the street.

Born out of the Festival of Britain in 1951, the Southbank Centre has always provided a social space to ensure that anyone and everyone can meet and be together, with members of the public often using its open foyer spaces to practice their dance moves. With 50% of the Southbank Centre's programming free, dozens of free events will take place across the site for all ages.

**Emma Warren, author of *Dance Your Way Home* and co-curator of the *Dance Your Way Home* programme said:**

*"Dance Your Way Home is rooted in the idea that moving to music, together, is powerful on an individual and collective level. The dance we're celebrating this summer isn't about being good at dancing. It's about bringing the moves you have, celebrating all kinds of dancefloors, whether that's a kitchen disco, partner dancing, or a late night rave-up. We'll make sure there's space for the hesitant dancers, too."*

Highlights include:

- Basel-based choreographer **Jeremy Nedd's** London debut ***From rock to rock***, a piece featuring five performers examining the Milly Rock, a viral dance inspired by the rapper 2 Milly (23 & 24 Jul, QEH).
- Young DJs from displaced and underrepresented backgrounds celebrate music's ability to bring people together in ***Our Heartbeats: Unity in Motion*** (every Thur, 31 Jul - 21 Aug, Riverside Terrace).
- **Fuse ODG** celebrate the anniversary of dance anthem 'Azonto' with special guests in the Royal Festival Hall (27 Jul).
- In the talks programme **Caleb Femi & Jordan Stephens** reflect on the life-affirming freedom of the party in a special talk ***On the Dance Floor*** (25 Jul), **Femi Koleoso** and **Emma Warren** discuss how music, dance and social spaces unite everyone (8 Aug), and ***Poets on the Dancefloor*** spotlights poetry that draws from and celebrates music and movement (24 Jul).
- ***Grief Rave*** invites everyone to shake out their day, to dedicate a song to someone or something they may be missing – from a personal bereavement to a breakup or simply releasing some political rage, pain or fury (3 Aug, Riverside Terrace).
- A unique chance to watch the classic film ***Babylon*** with live music followed by a conversation with composer Dennis Bovell, whose experiences partly inspired it (26 Jul, QEH).
- Drawing on Emma Warren's dual citizenship, the programme presents an Irish strand featuring a new commission by Dublin based street artist **Aches** celebrating the

public's use of the site for dance and rehearsal, and a free **Hooley in the Kitchen** (16 Aug, Riverside Terrace).

- Art brings the site alive with a new dancefloor by **Beyond the Box** and **Qudus St. Patrick**. A mini disco – the **Fandangoe Discoteca dancefloor** - will be on site and free to use.
- Other highlights include a celebration of Afro-Cuban and Brazilian dance in **Urban Ritual: From Havana to Bahia**, **Ásrún Magnúsdóttir's Listening Party**, **Folk Dance: For and of the People**, **Free Party: A Folk History**, **Alex Baczyński-Jenkins**, **Kinetika Bloco** and **Tomorrow's Warriors**.

Event listings [HERE](#). Further programming to be announced.

### **UK PREMIERE: WE SHOULD HAVE NEVER WALKED ON THE MOON**

Images [HERE](#) Trailer [HERE](#)

**Rambert** and **Ballet national de Marseille**, direction **(LA)HORDE** join forces to transform the entire Royal Festival Hall and wider site with the UK Premiere of *We Should Have Never Walked On The Moon* (3 - 6 Sep).

'*We should have never walked on the moon*' is a quote borrowed from Gene Kelly, who was reported to have said it to Buzz Aldrin. Featuring a cast of 50, including dancers from both companies, DJs and a limousine, this ambitious project explores the role of the body in a post-internet age of infinite information, communication and expression. It subtly considers the dominance of mainstream American culture and how movement becomes a force of homogenisation.

Audiences are invited to roam freely around the entire Royal Festival Hall building and wider Southbank Centre site at their own pace as performances and digital works take place throughout the evening. Artists will perform in the Royal Festival Hall auditorium with the audience watching from the stage, as well as in unusual spaces, including backstage areas in the Queen Elizabeth Hall, the Undercroft and the Southbank Centre's outdoor terraces.

This large-scale project continues the Southbank Centre's collaborative relationship with the two powerhouse dance companies, and further demonstrates their joint commitment to surprise and inspire London audiences.

Choreography includes works by (LA)HORDE, Rambert's Artistic Director Benoit Swan Pouffer, Lucinda Childs, Cécilia Bengolea & François Chaignaud, and Oona Doherty.

This project is generously supported by Cockayne - Grants for the Arts.

**Benoit Swan Pouffer, Artistic Director of Rambert** said:

*"We're very excited to continue our collaboration with (LA)HORDE and the Southbank Centre with this innovative reimagining of We Should Have Never Walked On The Moon; a coming together of artistic minds and talents. As audiences follow their instincts and create their own unique experiences walking through the different spaces of the Southbank Centre, this immersive dance event promises to be as exciting as it is unexpected."*

**(LA)HORDE** said:

*“We have designed ‘We Should Have Never Walked on the Moon’ as an encounter between the dancers of Ballet national de Marseille and performers who have been historical collaborators in our early work. Today, we are delighted to expand this dialogue by bringing in dancers from Rambert and students from the Rambert school, uniting two major European companies through a shared repertoire. We’re also thrilled to perform at the Southbank Centre in London again - this time taking over the Royal Festival Hall and wider site - as we only recently made our London debut at the iconic venue.”*

Tickets go on sale to Southbank Centre’s Members on 30 April, 10am and to the general public on 1 May, 10am [www.southbankcentre.co.uk](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk) / 0203 879 9555.

-ENDS-

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

This press release is available in a range of formats. Please email [press@southbankcentre.co.uk](mailto:press@southbankcentre.co.uk)

For further information please see [HERE](#)

Dance Your Way Home images [HERE](#)

*We Should Have Never Walked On The Moon* images [HERE](#) Trailer [HERE](#)

Press night for *We Should Have Never Walked On The Moon*: Wednesday 3 September 2025

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### **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. 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 six Resident Orchestras (Aurora Orchestra, Chineke! Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, London Sinfonietta, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and Philharmonia Orchestra). [southbankcentre.co.uk](http://southbankcentre.co.uk)

### **About Emma Warren, co-curator of the *Dance Your Way Home* programme**

Emma Warren has been documenting grassroots music culture for decades. She is the author of *Make Some Space* (2019), which was a MOJO book of the year and was re-released by Chicago record label International Anthem; her pamphlet *Steam Down*

(2019), which was published by Rough Trade Books and named an Irish Times read of the year; *Document Your Culture* (2020); and *Dance Your Way Home* (2023), which was a Guardian book of the year and Sunday Times book of the week.

Warren was a founding contributor to Jockey Slut magazine, worked on staff at The Face and worked as the editorial mentor at youth-run Brixton publication Live Magazine. Her monthly radio show on Worldwide FM ran for six years.

### **About Rambert Dance Company**

Rambert believes that to give brilliant and daring people the chance to inspire others is to give them the power to change the world for the better. As one of the world's most diverse companies of dancers, Rambert transform everyday spaces by making dance that is awe-inspiring, adventurous, dynamic, and relevant, and take it to their neighbourhood, the nation and the world. Rambert want to hear the most exciting and radical ideas wherever they may come from and connect with brilliant and daring audiences and participants from all backgrounds. Through performances; dance and wellness classes and courses for people of all ages and abilities Rambert want to ensure we are inspiring, engaging and relevant to everyone. Rambert's Chief Executive is Helen Shute and Benoit Swan Pouffer is Artistic Director. Rambert is a National Portfolio Organisation of Arts Council England. [rambert.org.uk](http://rambert.org.uk)

### **About Ballet national de Marseille**

The Ballet national de Marseille is a creation of our time, a place of emergence that has been imbued with a special aura since its creation. Born out of exception, this institution broke away from the French centralism of its era. Roland Petit initiated this narrative, whose various ventures and successes have written a part of the history of dance. Since 2019, the intrinsic vitality of the Ballet has found a regenerative form under the direction of (LA)HORDE, once again shaping the identity of an ecstatic creative community. [ballet-de-marseille.com](http://ballet-de-marseille.com)

