

**SOUTHBANK
CENTRE**

MELTDOWN

Press Release

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Southbank Centre celebrates 30th edition of Meltdown with 2025 curator Little Simz



Little Simz © Thibaut Grevet

The **Southbank Centre** has announced **Little Simz** as the curator of the 30th edition of its iconic contemporary music festival, **Meltdown**.

Joining an unparalleled list of previous curators, including some of the world's most famous artists, **Little Simz** will curate a boundary-breaking line-up for the eleven day festival as well as performing herself. Alongside two weekends of free participatory programming, featuring grassroots collectives and local organisations, and one-of-a-kind performances that have come to characterise Meltdown, the Southbank Centre will be transformed into a spectacular festival open for all.

Little Simz' Meltdown will take place from **Thursday 12 June** until **Sunday 22 June 2025**. The first names for Little Simz' Meltdown will be announced in the Spring.

Commenting on her curatorship, Little Simz said: *"I'm super excited to be the 2025 Meltdown festival curator! My team and I are preparing eleven days of art, music, workshops and more. So many incredible artists have curated this festival so it's a true honour to be a part of it. Thank you to the Southbank Centre for having me. Meltdown 2025 the Simz way is going to be epic. I'll see you there."*

Jane Beese, Head of Contemporary Music, Southbank Centre said: *"Little Simz' ability to forge new genre-defying ideas and her ambition to inspire the next generation of creators aligns with what the Southbank Centre's artistic programme and vision stands for. We're incredibly excited to witness the lineup she'll curate and for the power of her great art, leadership and culture to bring people together on-site for our 30th year."*

Mark Ball, Artistic Director, Southbank Centre added: *"Meltdown has become one of the most enduring and anticipated highlights of the annual music calendar, shaped each year by the spirit, imagination and artistry of its curator. Little Simz is becoming such a powerful influence in London and beyond and we're delighted that for eleven days in June the Southbank Centre will become her cultural playground where she can fully explore her musicianship, her icons and her cultural passions."*

Little Simz is recognised as one of the UK's most captivating and visionary artists, coming a long way from handing out mixtapes in the school playground. Ever evolving and forward-facing, Little Simz's wider breakthrough came with her third album, *Grey Area* (2019), featuring explosive singles "Offence," "Boss," and winning her Best British Album at the 2020 NME Awards. A starring role in Netflix's *Top Boy* followed, ahead of the release of her fourth album *Sometimes I Might Be Introvert* (2021). Her critically acclaimed and most commercially successful album to date, *S.I.M.B.I.*, catapulted her into the top 5 of the Official Albums Chart, topping the bill at festivals around the world, and winning her multiple accolades including the Mercury Music Prize, two MOBOs, an Ivor Novello and her first BRIT Award.

Little Simz sixth album, *NO THANK YOU* (2022), was a sleek and utterly propulsive body of work, with a visionary short-film directed by acclaimed Gabriel Moses released alongside the album. Little Simz' 2024 performance on the Pyramid Stage at Glastonbury defined her reputation as an inimitable live performer and one of the most celebrated British artists around.

In 2024, the legendary [Chaka Khan](#) welcomed tens of thousands of people to the festival, transforming the Southbank Centre into a joyous celebration of love, music and community, featuring Emeli Sandé, Lady Blackbird, Bruce Hornsby and Incognito. The longest artist curated festival in the world, previous curators have included Christine and the Queens, Grace Jones, Nile Rodgers, Robert Smith, David Byrne, Yoko Ono, Anohni, Massive Attack, Jarvis Cocker, Patti Smith and David Bowie.

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For more information:

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About Meltdown

The Southbank Centre's award-winning Meltdown festival has been running annually since 1993 and is the longest-running artist-curated festival in the world. Each year the Southbank Centre invites a different cultural figure to act as curator and select performers and events of their choosing. Previous curators are: Chaka Khan, Christine and the Queens, Grace Jones, Nile Rodgers, Robert Smith, M.I.A., Guy Garvey, David Byrne, James Lavelle, Yoko Ono, Anohni, Ray Davies, Richard Thomson, Ornette Coleman, Massive Attack, Jarvis Cocker, Patti Smith, Morrissey, Lee Scratch-Perry, David Bowie, Robert Wyatt, Scott Walker, Nick Cave, John Peel, Laurie Anderson, Magnus Lindberg, Elvis Costello, Louis Andriessen and George Benjamin. Previous performers include Philip Glass, Lou Reed, Ivor Cutler, Sonic Youth, Suicide, Nina Simone, Blur, Radiohead, David Gilmour, Coldplay, Mercury Rev, Television, The Dandy Warhols, The Polyphonic Spree, The Yeah Yeah Yeahs, Nancy Sinatra, Bert Jansch, Jeff Beck, John Cale, Iggy & The Stooges, Motorhead, Massive Attack, Moby, Nine Inch Nails, The Libertines, The Cure and Femi Kuti. Meltdown has a reputation for staging one-off performances and collaborations by legendary artists. Patti Smith performed *Horses* in full for her Meltdown; Ray Davies re-staged the TV pop show 'Ready Steady Go!'; Jeff Buckley played his final UK show at Elvis Costello's Meltdown; The New York Dolls reunited for Morrissey; Nick Cave, Grace Jones and Pete Doherty sang Disney songs with Jarvis Cocker; and a rare live performance from Cocteau Twins' Elizabeth Fraser was part of Anohni's Meltdown. Robert Smith's 2018 Meltdown and Grace Jones' 2022 Meltdown were both nominated for Music Week Awards Festival of the Year with Smith's also winning the AIM Independent Music Awards 'Act of Independence' Award.

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. 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). www.southbankcentre.co.uk



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